

طريقا الى المستقبل

# Jordan Times

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## Kuwait poll results expected today

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis voted Wednesday for a new parliament in the only Gulf Arab state with an elected assembly able to initiate laws and change or reject government bills. Police kept a close watch on ballot boxes after allegations of election irregularities, including charges that foreign embassies had given cash for the campaigns of candidates they wanted in parliament. The 119 polling stations where due to close at 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) after receiving most of the 56,848 men eligible to choose deputies for the next four-year term of the 50-member national assembly. Full results are expected Thursday. Only 3.5 per cent of Kuwait's population of 1.7 million are allowed to vote under a franchise restricted to men over 21, most of whom must be able to trace their roots in Kuwait back to 1920.

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## Hussein sends message to France

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a message to French President Francois Mitterrand on last week's agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a formula for common action towards Middle East peace. The message was carried by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jassem who arrived in Paris Wednesday.

## Masri honours Swiss ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri hosted a banquet at the Marriott Hotel Wednesday in honour of Swiss Ambassador in Amman, Andre Louis Vallon on the occasion of the end of his term in office in Jordan. In his speech during the banquet, Mr. Masri hailed the good relations linking Jordan and Switzerland and the role of Mr. Vallon in strengthening ties of cooperation between the two friendly countries. Mr. Vallon also praised the bilateral relations. The minister presented the ambassador with a token gift on this occasion.

## Israeli police 'shot Arab prisoner'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli parliamentarian has said that authorities had covered up the shooting of an Arab prisoner in a detention centre in South Lebanon by an Israeli policeman, Israel Radio reported. Communist Parliamentarian Charlie Biton was quoted as saying a trooper of Israel's paramilitary border police shot an unidentified prisoner about seven months ago in a detention centre in Sidon but was not put on trial. The radio quoted a Police Ministry spokesman as saying that military authorities had investigated the incident and found that the trooper's gun had fired by accident.

## Egyptian lawyer sues Israeli envoy

CAIRO (R) — A Coptic Christian lawyer is suing Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson because his government has ruled against returning a Coptic monastery in Jerusalem to the Egyptian Coptic Church. "I am suing the Coptic ambassador because his government has not implemented several orders by Jerusalem court in favour of returning the Sultan Monastery to the Egyptian church," the lawyer, Maurice Sadek, told Reuters Wednesday. He said he was suing Mr. Sasson only in his capacity as the legal representative of the Israeli government in Egypt.

## Gandhi murder suspects seek bail

NEW DELHI (AP) — Three Sikhs charged with plotting the Oct. 31 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi asked a court Wednesday to release them on bail, their attorneys said. The lawyers said the three prisoners — including Sarjit Singh, one of Mrs. Gandhi's bodyguards and the sole surviving accused assassin — sought bail.

# Israelis detain 200 Lebanese villagers

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli troops trying to crack down on increasingly successful resistance forces in South Lebanon raided a village near the southern city of Tyre Wednesday and arrested more than 200 people.

South Lebanon last month. The "Lebanese National Resistance front" said Wednesday its men had mounted 1,219 attacks since September 1982 — 998 on the Israelis and 221 on their South Lebanese militia allies. Three people have died and three have been wounded during the latest Israeli raids on Shiite villages to hunt for suspects and arms. The raids are causing increasing tension between the Israelis and the 606-man French contingent to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), whose troops stationed in villages around Tyre

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## Thatcher warns of new Soviet political offensive in Geneva

WASHINGTON (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, predicting that arms talks between the superpowers will be difficult, on Wednesday warned the West to expect a Soviet political offensive "calculated to create a false sense of purpose, to inspire resolve and even to arouse fear in the hearts of our people."

In an address to a joint meeting of Congress, the prime minister also firmly endorsed research into President Ronald Reagan's controversial anti-missile defence programme and praised his four-year massive arms buildup, which she said induced the Soviets to renew their interest in bargaining.

"Let us be under no illusions, it is for strength, not their goodwill that has brought the Soviet Union to the negotiating table in Geneva," she declared.

Mrs. Thatcher said the nuclear arms talks that open in Geneva on March 12 between the United States and the Soviet Union "will be intricate, complex and demanding," adding: "We should not expect too much too soon."

"We must recognise that we shall face a Soviet political offensive designed to sow differences among us, calculated to create a false sense of purpose, to inspire resolve — and even to arouse fear in the hearts of our people," she said.

The prime minister arrived in Washington on Tuesday. After her speech, she was to begin two days of meetings with Mr. Reagan and top administration officials.

Suffering from political troubles at home, Mrs. Thatcher requested the opportunity to become the first prime minister since Winston Churchill in 1952 to speak to Congress.



Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van der Broek (left) meets his Egyptian counterpart Esam Abdul Maguid in Cairo on Wednesday (AP wirephoto).

## Dutch, Romanian officials praise Amman accord

CAIRO (R) — Senior Dutch and Romanian officials Wednesday praised last week's agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on a joint approach to Middle East peace after separate talks with Egyptian leaders.

"The accord is a positive step that will help in the search for a just settlement in the Middle East," Romanian Vice-President Manea Marescu told reporters after meeting Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van der Broek said after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abdul Maguid that last week's agreement was "an important development which we hope will lead to an important step in the peace process."

Mr. Van der Broek, who arrived Tuesday, signed a cultural agreement with Mr. Abdul Maguid. He later met Mr. Ali and also due to see President Hosni Mubarak during his four-day stay.

## Peres 'ready to travel to Amman for peace talks'

ROME (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday he was ready to travel to Amman for peace talks.

Mr. Peres, speaking at joint press conference with Italian Premier Bettino Craxi, said he and Mr. Craxi agreed that "direct Israeli-Jordanian negotiations" were "the best way" to resolve the Middle East conflict.

The Israeli prime minister, who later left for Romania, reiterated the Israeli contention that an international peace conference on the Middle East would be an "exercise in rhetoric with little hope of success."

"If someone is interested in peace, why not take the first step — sit and talk," said Mr. Peres, who held three days of talks with Mr. Craxi and other Italian leaders. "I am ready to go to Amman," he said.

Mr. Peres has frequently called on Jordan to open direct talks with Israel but it was the first time he offered to travel to Amman.

The Israeli premier brushed aside consultations between U.S. and Soviet experts in Vienna on the Middle East, saying that the two superpowers should work on their own problems.

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# Saunders sees 'new level of Arab sophistication' in Jordan-PLO accord

By Rami G. Khouri  
Specialist to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A prominent and highly respected American expert on the Middle East has underscored the potential significance of the Jordan-PLO accord on a joint negotiating position as one element in the "pre-negotiations period of intense politics that is trying to rearrange the political environment" of the region.

Mr. Harold Saunders, a former United States assistant under-secretary of state for Near East and South Asian Affairs, and now a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, said in an interview with the Jordan Times here earlier this week that "the fact of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord is now probably more important than the wording of the accord."

"It is important simply that there was an accord," he said, "even though the wording may be subject to further refinement and may not be the wording that the

Arab side actually takes into a negotiation with Israel one day. The fact of the agreement now at this early stage is probably more important than its exact wording. Following are major excerpts from the interview:

"The draft of the agreement is likely to evolve further, but I think it's a good start, even as a draft. There are some significant things in it already. The land-for-peace formula in the agreement is a substantially important factor."

"The second thing that I think is important is the paragraph that describes Palestinian self-determination in the context of an ultimate confederation with Jordan. Obviously, Jordan and the PLO are succeeding in working out a long-term relationship that they did not succeed in doing in April 1983."

"What's also important to me is that Jordan and the PLO are now talking about how to proceed. They have gotten beyond the slogans. The words 'self-determination' have posed problems for many people in the recent past. The problem the United States has is that 'self-determination' has come to mean only an independent Palestinian state. It does not necessarily mean that, and neither does it exclude an independent state. The experience of the 20th century shows that an act of self-determination can have many different outcomes, reached through various means, such as negotiations, consultations, elections, referenda or other means. Of course, the United States cannot possibly oppose self-determination, because it is a concept that is at the heart of our political thinking."

"The accord speaks of self-determination in a more nuanced way. What's important to me is the people have gotten realistic about how to arrange an act of Palestinian self-determination. The Hussein-Arafat dialogue about Palestinian self-determination has become quite practical now, and quite sophisticated, in that they're talking about what self-

determination means in this specific situation. "Every act of self-determination that has taken place under the United Nations Charter has had a different outcome, and has been tailored to peculiar political circumstances. There has to be an act of self-determination designed to give the fullest participation or choice possible to the Palestinians about organising their future, within the circumstances in which they find themselves. That's why I feel the part of the accord that talks about a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation is quite a sophisticated approach to a Palestinian act of self-determination within a specific framework that exists today in this part of the world."

"King Fahd's presence with President Reagan in Washington when the accord was announced

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Quandt sees 'step towards realism' in Mideast, page 2



Vladimir P. Polyakov (front), head of the Soviet delegation to talks in Vienna with the U.S. on the Mideast, returns to the Soviet mission in the Austrian capital after the conclusion Wednesday of the two-day talks (AP wirephoto).

## French observer shot dead in Beirut

SHWEIFAT, Lebanon (R) — Unidentified men shot dead the French commander of a five-man ceasefire observer squad Tuesday night, apparently after drinking tea at his hilltop base above this Druze township near Beirut.

A French observer force statement said Wednesday Major Paul Rhodos was killed by "unidentified elements" at 10.30 p.m. (2030 GMT) at the entrance to the post. It gave no details.

Blood still stained the yellow clay outside the observers' single storey, stone-built base. Their pet Alsatian dog "Jacques", also killed by the gunmen, lay in the grass nearby.

The post Rhodos commanded is on a hilltop held by the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia, whose local commander said he found the frightened French survivors huddled in their post at midnight after Maj. Rhodos was killed.

"I knocked on the door, but they were too afraid to open," PSP commander Abu Kifah said. The observers eventually let him in and showed him Maj. Rhodos' body with four bullets in the chest.

"They said seven strangers had come to drink tea. They talked about politics and the weather before leaving," Abu Kifah said. He said the Frenchmen told him the same men returned 10 minutes later, wearing masks, just after Maj. Rhodos left for duty at a sandbagged post 200 metres from the base.

Shooting broke out and the dog crawled inside the base with bullet wounds. Five masked men burst in and shot the dog again.

Abu Kifah said the French were convinced the men had been

## Anani voices new hopes for Iraq-Jordan pipeline

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani has said there were "fresh hopes" that security guarantees might be provided to help launch the projected Iraq-Jordan oil pipeline.

He told a press conference here Tuesday that until last July there had been no hope for the projected \$1 billion pipeline, and Iraq had shelved the plans.

"But we have got new hopes recently from the American companies," he said without elaborating.

The pipeline, one of the alternatives Iraq has been seeking for the export of its oil after its war with Iran closed its Gulf terminals and Iraq's ally, Syria, blocked its pipeline to the Mediterranean, has been studied by the U.S. Bechtel company.

Iraq was reported to have shelved the plans for the pipeline, which would take its crude to Aqaba on the Red Sea, because the route would be vulnerable to attack by Israel.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, while in Washington last November for the restoration of Iraqi-U.S. diplomatic ties after a 17-year break, said Iraq wanted a higher level of American and Western European participation in the scheme as such involvement "would be a guarantee against any adventurist policy from Israel."

Dr. Anani was visiting Bahrain to discuss means of boosting inter-Arab trade.

He was accompanied by a delegation of Jordanian officials and trade representatives to initiate the implementation of a \$20 million trade exchange accord recently signed between the two countries. Jordan's main exports to Bahrain are foodstuffs, and it was seeking imports of petrochemicals, aluminium products and iron products, he said.

Dr. Anani said Jordan and Egypt were planning a link between the two countries across the Red Sea. "The Red Sea is too strategic and important and that is why we should try to use it properly," he said.

The designed route was significant in that it would also mark Egypt's link by land through Jordan with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, he said.

The minister estimated it would take three hours to cross the Gulf of Aqaba between Sinai and Jordan under the contemplated ferry service.

During his visit to Bahrain Dr. Anani and Bahraini officials also discussed the establishment of industrial projects, especially in iron, steel and petrochemicals.

The Jordanian minister later had talks with Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa.

Dr. Anani was received by the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, on Wednesday. They discussed bilateral relations and current Arab issues.

## Firebomb hurled at Israeli soldiers in occupied Gaza

AMMAN (Petra) — A molotov cocktail bomb was thrown at an Israeli army patrol passing through the main street of the occupied town of Rafah in Gaza Strip Tuesday night, Israel Radio reported Wednesday.

The radio, which said the attack did not cause any casualties, said several Arab citizens were arrested by the Israeli occupation forces after the incident.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank city of Hebron, Israeli settlers of the Kiryat Arba settlement Wednesday attempted to occupy the Rumaileh hill in the centre of the city, the radio reported.

The radio said the settlers belonging to Gush Emunim movement led by Rabbi Moshe Levinger were stopped by the Israeli occupation authorities.

A representative of the settlers has announced that the immediate aim of West Bank settlers is to occupy the hill.

Recent reports have also said that the youth wing of the Israeli Herut Party led by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was planning to set up its headquarters in the centre of Hebron.

## Soviets to sign pact on nuclear plant inspections

VIENNA (R) — The Soviet Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Wednesday they would sign an accord Thursday opening Soviet nuclear plants to inspection for the first time.

Andrei Petrosyants, chairman of Moscow's state committee on utilisation of atomic energy, will sign the "safeguards" accord with IAEA Director-General Hans Blix.

The IAEA, founded in 1957 to foster peaceful uses of atomic energy, has 112 members and under its safeguards system sends inspectors to monitor the fuel cycles of civil nuclear plants.

Members which acquired nuclear weapons before joining the agency are not obliged to sign saf-

eguards accords but the United States, Britain and France did so voluntarily.

Safeguards agreements apply to civilian nuclear plants and are designed to prevent the undetected diversion of civilian nuclear material to military projects.

The system is a major bulwark of the 1970 international Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), signed by 120 countries and up for review in September. The NPT is designed to prevent the emergence of new nuclear weapons.

China is now the only declared nuclear weapons state not to submit to inspections.

India, which has exploded a nuclear device, also has nuclear facilities not inspected by the IAEA.

## U.S.-Soviet talks on Mideast conclude in Vienna

VIENNA (Agencies) — United States and Soviet experts Wednesday ended two days of confidential talks on the Middle East amid renewed diplomatic activity on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Soviet delegation led by Viktor Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East division and the Kremlin's expert on the Middle East, left the U.S. embassy compound without commenting to reporters after Wednesday's five-hour session.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who led the U.S. delegation, also refused comment. On Tuesday he said his meeting with Mr. Polyakov at the Soviet mission was "interesting."

"The talks have finished and a statement will be issued at some time from Moscow and/or Washington," a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

The first five-hour round Tuesday coincided with a comment in Washington by Secretary of State George Shultz that the United States might soon move into a "helpful and direct" role in the Middle East peace process (See page 2).

The Vienna discussions were considered particularly significant because they are the first formal Soviet-U.S. meeting on the Middle East in more than seven years. They coincided with signs of progress on long-standing regional conflicts.

Israeli troops were pulling out of Lebanon and Syria, Israel's main opponent, announced it too was willing to reduce its forces in Lebanon.

Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reached recent agreement on a joint negotiating position on Middle East peace.

U.S. officials described the Vienna meetings as an exchange of views on regional problems, rather than negotiations, and said they would also cover Afghanistan and the four-year-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Western diplomats in Vienna said earlier they thought Mr. Murphy would use the talks to state Washington's terms for attending formal Middle East peace negotiations along with Moscow.

These would probably include restoration of diplomatic ties between Moscow and Israel and better treatment for Jews in the Soviet Union. The U.S. also wants Moscow to put pressure on its Arab ally Syria to help towards a peaceful solution.

Mr. Polyakov was expected to repeat Moscow's call for an international Middle East conference of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the diplomats said.

Tuesday's comment by Secretary of State Shultz to a congressional committee in Washington, came one week after Saudi Arabia's King Fahd urged President Reagan to take a more vigorous role in seeking peace in the region.

The Reagan administration has avoided a high profile in the Middle East since pulling its troops out of Lebanon a year ago.

In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency TASS said the talks were devoted to the problem of achieving a comprehensive settlement of the region's conflicts. TASS said Soviet and American experts had met for "a bilateral exchange of views on the Middle East."

"The main attention was devoted to the problem of achieving an all-embracing and just settlement of the Middle East conflict," it said. The agency gave no other details.

U.S. officials said in Washington last week that the talks were mainly aimed at reducing the risk of U.S.-Soviet confrontation over the Middle East.

Operating now

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# UAE stresses need for free navigation in Gulf

**ABU DHABI (R) —** Defence Minister Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stressed Wednesday the need for free and safe navigation in the Gulf after three attacks in two days on shipping in the area.

Sheikh Muhammad, quoted by the official Emirates News Agency WAM, was speaking to Japanese Ambassador Suichi Nomura, one of whose countrymen was killed in a missile attack on a Kuwaiti ship on Monday.

The upsurge in apparent Iranian attacks on Gulf shipping after a seven-week lull, and nine confirmed hits on shipping by Iraq since the beginning of the year, has heightened security concerns in Gulf Arab states.

The latest attack was northeast of Qatar Tuesday when a light plane, believed to be Iranian, dropped an explosive device during a low pass over a Saudi Arabian tanker, the Muhammad Al Bakr 10, shipping sources in the area said.

They said the device missed the 12,503-tonne vessel, which arrived early Wednesday at the Saudi oil port of Ras Tannurah. None of the crew of Norwegians and Filipinos was hurt.

The sources said the attack occurred near the Shah Allum Shoal, in an area midway between Qatar and Iran where previous Iranian air attacks on shipping have been reported.

Two ships — the 32,534-tonne Kuwaiti container ship Al Manakh and a South Korean tanker, the 71,474-tonne Royal Colombo — were hit in apparent Iranian air strikes about 100 miles east of

Qatar on Monday. Both ships sailed under their own steam to the UAE port of Dubai, where it was confirmed that one of the 25 Japanese crewmen aboard the Al Manakh had been killed in the raid.

Japan's O.S.K. Mitsui had an agreement with Al Manakh's owners, United Arab Shipping Company, to provide crew. In Tokyo Wednesday, Japan's Seaman's Union and the Shipowners' Association said they would review precautions for Japanese ships in the Gulf.

United Arab Shipping said the Al Manakh was hit by four missiles which struck the control room, two container sections and the accommodation area.

The company said the ship would be repaired in Dubai, with an insurance firm related to Lloyd's of London footing the entire bill. It did not give an estimated cost for repairs.

United Arab Shipping told Reuters the Al-Manakh had been hit outside the war risk zone and in an area where shipping insurance rates were reduced on Feb. 1.

Shipping sources said Monday's attacks were the farthest south to date in the so-called Gulf tanker war between Iran and Iraq, which began early last year as an extension of their 53-month-old ground conflict.

The sources said none of the 27 crewmen aboard the Royal Colombo, which had been carrying 125,000 tonnes of crude oil from Ras Tannurah to Sri Lanka, had been injured in the raid on the ship. It is now awaiting damage assessment off Dubai.

Two crewmen were injured, however, when Royal Colombo was hit in a previous missile attack in the Gulf last Sept. 16. It was one of about 60 confirmed strikes against shipping by Iran and Iraq during 1984.

In Abu Dhabi, Japanese embassy officials said the body of the dead Al Manakh crewman, first engineer Kenichi Fujimura, would be flown home after the arrival of his wife Thursday.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo has asked Iran to investigate the attack on the container ship.

"It was a regrettable incident," Waseke Miyake, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, told Iran's Ambassador to Japan Abdorrahim Gavahe.

"We are asking for the investigation as some reports said it was highly probable Iran made the attack last Monday because an F4E Phantom was used and the attack occurred in the southern Gulf," Mr. Miyake said according to an official statement.

Mr. Gavahe, who promised an investigation, was quoted as saying: "If the attack was initiated by an Iranian aircraft, it was probably a mistake and was not intentional. It is our policy not to attack Japanese ships and Japanese nationals."

## 'U.S. might move into direct role soon'

**WASHINGTON (R) —** Secretary of State George Shultz has said the United States might soon move into a "helpful and direct" role in the Middle East peace process while continuing to call for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Mr. Shultz made his comment to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee one week after President Reagan heard Saudi Arabia's King Fahd appeal for a more "vigorous" American role in seeking regional peace.

The Reagan administration has countered such appeals by saying an Arab country, notably Jordan, must first agree to negotiate with Israel.

"Our posture of inviting people who are urging us to become involved with a high profile and saying to them, 'well, what are you going to do if we do?' and encouraging people to look at their own responsibilities for the peace process, is an important ingredient of our policy," Mr. Shultz said.

He added: "We have been seeing some reactions to that, I believe. But anyway we are prepared to work in a helpful and direct way whenever we see the timing of it appropriate. And it may be that would occur some time soon."

The administration has not taken a high-profile role in the Middle East since it pulled its troops out of Lebanon a year ago. However, there has recently been a flurry of Middle East diplomacy. A state visit to Washington last week by King Fahd is to be followed next month by a visit by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In Amman, meanwhile, His Majesty King Hussein reached agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on a "framework for common action" to achieve a Middle East peace settlement. U.S. officials have expressed qualified hope it might mean progress towards negotiations.

Following King Fahd's talks with President Reagan, the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, was to brief Syrian President Hafez al-Assad.

## Quandt sees step towards realism in Mideast

**WASHINGTON (USIA) —** Looking at the issues raised by the West Bank and Gaza question, William Quandt, a former senior staff member for the Middle East on the National Security Council, said he sees a step towards realism by Middle Eastern actors which did not exist a few years ago.

Speaking to reporters Feb. 19, Mr. Quandt said, "With the passage of time the expectation of what is achievable on the Jordanian-Palestinian side is much more realistic." Having just returned from a trip to the Middle East, Mr. Quandt said he believes some key Arab states would be willing to allow some Israeli settlements to remain after Israeli withdrawal and that this is a new element in the peace process.

Noting that there are no classical political models available for settling the territorial problems between the Jordanians, Israelis and the Palestinians, he said, "there are going to have to be some very innovative concepts," perhaps, new political concepts to resolve land questions.

Mr. Quandt, who now is a senior fellow at Brookings Institution, travelled to Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Syria under the sponsorship of the U.S. Information Agency where he met with leaders to discuss U.S.-Middle East relations and prospects for peace. During his visit he heard their ideas about prospects for the resumption of the peace process particularly with respect to the West Bank, Gaza and the Palestinian question.

In his effort to read the "tea leaves" on the Middle East he said it is important to be aware of regional nuances and to look for small signs of change which he believes do not "add up to a dramatic reassessment of the situation but are the kinds of things worth watching."

Mr. Quandt said Egyptian activism in combination with "ongoing Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue warrants some attention." In a press conference at USIA headquarters he said he was struck by the extent Egypt and Jordan are working closely together since the resumption of diplomatic relations last year. He called it a new feature of inter-Arab politics since his last visit to the area several years ago.

Egypt's role is making a difference, in his mind, in its effort to shape a broader Arab consensus which includes Jordan, the bulk of the Palestinians, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states including Iraq. He described Egypt as having a "sense of strategy."

He also found "the scene in Israel commands attention" because the new Peres government has a different attitude than the previous one on a number of issues including Lebanon. He said this difference in approach has not gone unnoticed in Arab capitals. Still, he allowed that the present government composition will not allow decisive Israeli action on the West Bank and Gaza because there is no government consensus on the matter.

His impression from his discussions with Arab leaders is that "There seems to be a sense that time is of the essence... that for a variety of reasons this is a good moment to try to get something going," Mr. Quandt said there is also a perception among the Arabs that an "American role can be played more effectively this year" than next.

The current round of visits by Arab leaders to the United States are a collective effort to raise the Middle East issue higher on the American agenda of foreign policy issues, according to Mr. Quandt. He said many Arab leaders presently believe Middle East peace has dropped to a relatively low priority in the U.S. and they wish to stress the urgency of pursuing a settlement. He also said the Arab heads of state are likely to point out to President Reagan "some of the dangers of not making any headway soon."

The burden is on the Arabs, however, he said to convince the U.S. there is an "opportunity for genuine progress through peace negotiations."

Mr. Quandt underlined the point that there is no congruity of opinion between Israeli and the Arab World. He said the Israelis have a totally different sense of time as far as forward movement on negotiations, they are frustrated by the "coolness" of their relationship with Egypt and they are definitely not ready for an activist American role in the region. Nobody is talking about what substantive issues would be considered if all of the parties eventually made it as far as the negotiating table, according to Mr. Quandt. He stressed "the Camp David concept of autonomy is essentially dead" because there is no one on the Arab side "who sees that this, by itself, is worth sitting down and negotiating over."

In summing up the Arab position, Mr. Quandt described it as "a reaffirmation of the U.N. 242 formula of land for peace." He said "The Arabs want to talk about Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, possibly the Golan as well, in return for recognition and security."

While the Arabs want "the same deal as Sadat got," Mr. Quandt said, "they also realize they are not apt to obtain a 99.9 per cent return of their territory as Mr. Sadat did." He explained further by saying the Arabs also know they will not obtain a guarantee from the United States to get their land back if they would only enter negotiations. He said the Israelis are "unable politically to even hint at what their position will be in negotiations. Without a consensus in the Peres government, 'you simply cannot get an authoritative statement out of the current Israeli cabinet.'" Mr. Quandt said.

No amount of American pressure will help the Jordanians and Palestinians regain all lost territory, Mr. Quandt pointed out. On the other hand he said Israel cannot negotiate seriously with the Jordanians or the Palestinians without offering up some of its territory.

## Ali ends Beirut visit, flies to Zurich

**BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) —** Former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali left Beirut for Zurich on Wednesday after spending four days in the Lebanese capital in an effort to gain freedom for four Americans missing in Lebanon.

A source at Beirut Airport said Ali departed aboard a Middle East Airlines flight to Zurich at 12:10 p.m. (1010 GMT). The source, who asked not to be identified, said the flight was delayed by 30 minutes because Ali and his party were late.

Jabir Mohammad, Ali's religious adviser, said the 41-year-old former boxer was returning to the United States.

Ali, who converted to Islam in 1964, had said he hoped his influence as an American Muslim could win freedom for the four Americans, believed to have been kidnapped by Shiite Muslim radicals loyal to Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

But his adviser, Mr. Mohammad, said Tuesday that he believed the kidnappers would pay attention to Ali's appeal to free

the Americans and a Saudi Arabian diplomat, Hussein Farrash, who was kidnapped on Ali's birthday last year, Jan. 17.

"We are very optimistic and we hope that, inshallah (God willing), things will be much better," Mr. Mohammad said. "I think the captors got our message... we never expected them to bring them and deliver them into our hands."

"Inshallah, they will deliver them somewhere soon," he added. "When they are really ready, they know where we are and they will contact us."

## TV & RADIO

| JORDAN TELEVISION                    | BBC WORLD SERVICE   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 639, 720, 1413 KHz                   | 639, 720, 1413 KHz  |
| <b>MAIN CHANNEL</b>                  | 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Classical Record   |
| 17:00 Koran                          | 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:20 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Fresh  |
| 17:30 Children's Programmes          | 07:45 News 07:50 World 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Nature Notebook   |
| 18:15 Walt Disney                    | 08:45 The Evening World 09:00 World News 09:20 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Short Takes 09:45 Network UK  |
| 19:05 Local Programme on Agriculture | 09:50 World News 10:00 Reflections  |
| 19:30 Programme Review               | 10:15 Country Music Profile 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:15 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today   |
| 19:45 World's Event                  | 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Monitor 11:50 News Summary: From The Promenade  |
| 20:00 Tomorrow's Programmes          | 12:30 Clayton Zoidis 12:40 World News 12:50 News about Britain  |
| 20:30 Arabic Play                    | 13:15 News 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Good Show 14:50 World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Sports and Sin  |
| 21:00 News in Arabic                 | 16:00 News Summary: Outlook   |
| 21:30 Play Continued                 | 16:15 The Picture of the Week 16:45 News 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 The Picture of the Week 17:40 World News 17:50 World News 18:00 News Summary: 24 Hours   |
|                                      | 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:15 World News 19:25 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Outlook 21:45 Stock Market Report 21:45 Revlon on Religion 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Moment 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 23:40 World News 00:00 The World Today 00:25 The Week in Wales 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News, Commentary 01:15 Meridian Programme 01:30 Meridian |

| FOREIGN CHANNEL                                |
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| 18:00 Anjourné in vie                          |
| 19:00 News in French                           |
| 19:30 Theatre de Boulevard                     |
| 19:45 News in Hebrew                           |
| 20:45 Drawing Workshop                         |
| 20:50 Three's Company                          |
| 21:10 Lytton's Diary                           |
| 21:30 News in English                          |
| 22:15 Feature Film: The Return of Frank Cannon |

**RADIO JORDAN**  
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & purely on 95.60 KHz, SW

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| 07:30 Newsdesk      | 14:40 News Bulletin |
| 08:00 Morning Show  | 14:45 News Bulletin |
| 08:30 News Summary  | 14:50 News Bulletin |
| 09:00 Morning Show  | 15:00 News Bulletin |
| 09:30 Pop Session   | 15:05 News Bulletin |
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Obeid, Al-Rawi discuss transport issues

AMMAN (Petra).—Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid and Iraqi Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Oil Abdul Sattar Al-Rawi Wednesday discussed Jordanian-Iraqi relations, especially in the transport sector. Mr. Al-Rawi left Amman later Wednesday for the Sultanate of Oman.

## Islamic justice visits Irbid, Jerash

AMMAN (Petra).—Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mbeilan Wednesday discussed Islamic judiciary affairs with Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Amin and the two agreed to hold an expanded meeting on Feb. 28 to further discuss these affairs. Sheikh Mbeilan also visited the two Islamic courts of Irbid and the court of Jerash where he conferred with judges on Islamic judiciary matters. He inspected the court registers and documents and urged the courts to facilitate and speed up public cases.

## Ayyoub meets U.S. wheat delegation

AMMAN (Petra).—Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub Wednesday discussed with a delegation from the wheat farmers association in the U.S.A. the kinds of wheat produced in the U.S.A., their specifications, storage methods and the problems facing the purchase of U.S. wheat. Mr. Ayyoub pointed out that the wheat supplied to Jordan should be within the highest quality limits of world specifications. The delegation expressed their readiness to respond to this request.

## More electricity generated in 1984

AMMAN (Petra).—Electrical energy generated during the fourth quarter of 1984 reached about 206,748,984 kwh against 50,901,040 kwh during the same period in 1983; an increase of 17.5 per cent, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) sources. The sources added that 87.1 per cent of the production was generated by steam units, 11.2 by diesel units and 1.7 per cent by gas units. JEA contributed by 84.4 per cent to the total generated electricity in 1984 against 83.31 per cent during the same period in 1983, the sources pointed out.

**MILITARY MATTERS:** Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb (left) Wednesday receives visiting American Army General Theodore Genes (second from left) for discussions on matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the assistant chief of staff for operations and training and the American military attache in Amman (Petra photo).

## Zaben inaugurates Ma'an post office; more services planned for rural areas

MA'AN (Petra).—Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said that the government is carrying out the directives of His Majesty King Hussein by using modern technology to improve telephone and postal services in villages and rural areas, applying the same methods followed in cities in accordance with a well-studied plan to cope with modern systems in this field. Speaking during the in-

auguration ceremony of the new model post office in Ma'an Wednesday, Dr. Zaben said that a new 1,000-number automatic telephone switchboard will be installed in Ma'an before the end of this year to work alongside with the present 1,000-number automatic telephone switchboard. The minister added that a plan is underway to introduce a national direct line service in all the villages of the Ma'an area.

The JD 195,000 Ma'an model post office building came in accordance with the ministry's plan which aims to modernise and set up new model postal buildings in cities, villages and population gatherings to raise the standard and performance of postal services, Dr. Zaben added.

Earlier, the Ma'an communications director also pointed out that there are 63 post offices in the governorate which exchange all postal services at the national and international levels with Ma'an central post office. He added that there is a plan for opening four new post offices for joint postal services in Beer Khaddad, Al Mureigha, Al Rajef and Eil to provide joint services to 13 villages in the governorate. The director also said that the ministry has allocated JD 133,000 for setting up three new sub-post offices.

Dr. Zaben, accompanied by Ma'an Governor Salem Al Qudah, toured the various sections of the new model post office in Ma'an and inspected the progress of work. Attending the inauguration ceremony were Mr. Qudah, directors of departments in the governorate and a large crowd of citizens.

Earlier Wednesday the minister started a working tour in the southern region to get acquainted with the reality of postal and telephone services in the region.

Dr. Zaben will open Thursday the new electronic digital telephone switchboard in Aqaba. He will also meet with representatives of trade, industrial and popular sectors in the city to discuss issues related to telephone services in city.

## Hikmat pledges support for information media

AMMAN (Petra).—The official Jordanian information media will receive full support from the government to enable it to adequately fulfill its objectives, according to Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Minister of Information Taher Hikmat.

Mr. Hikmat was speaking to the staff of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, and the agency's director, Mr. Jawad Maraka, during a visit to the news agency on Wednesday.

Mr. Hikmat praised the efforts of Petra staff, editors and reporters and assured them that the government will soon formalise a new basis for the agency's work, ensuring a quality step ahead in its performance.

Later, the minister held discussions with Petra staff on conditions affecting the agency's work both locally and abroad.

He stressed the importance of organising and coordinating all field visits carried out by different government officials to municipal councils, settlements and various projects within the governorate.

Mr. Al Amin was speaking at the opening Wednesday of a meeting of the Irbid executive council which is composed of all local governors and heads of various government departments.

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## Obeidat, EC envoy discuss new cooperation agreement

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Wednesday conferred with the European Community (EC) representative in Amman Romano Lantini and reviewed economic, technical and commercial bilateral relations based on a 1978 cooperation agreement between Jordan and the EC. They also discussed the renewal of the similar five-year cooperation agreement.

Mr. Lantini told the Jordan Times that the current agreement, which will be invalid by the end of 1985, provides for offering EC technical support to vocational training schools, the Universities of Jordan and Yarmouk and other cooperation in the field of ind-

ustrial and economic development. They also drew up a schedule of joint projects to be implemented through a priority scale within the new five year plan. Mr. Lantini added.

The EC has offered Jordan assistance for setting up an energy

planning unit through an agreement signed in Amman in December of last year. The agreement, which was signed by the Ministry of Planning, stipulates that the EC will provide Jordan with specialists and training for Jordanian personnel and data-collecting methods and ways of improving energy planning. The agreement also offers technical assistance to the energy unit at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

EC financial aid to Jordan is expected to reach 450 million European Currency Units (ECU), ranging from soft loans to grants. The EC offers expertise for operating the Yarmouk University computer centre and consultancy work to the Engineering Faculty at the University of Jordan.

## Withdrawals from UNESCO threaten international cooperation, Tal says

AMMAN (Petra).—The threat of other nations to follow the United States decision to pull out from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is a blow to the principles of international cooperation and a stab in the back of Third World nations, according to UNESCO General Conference Chairman Saad Al Tal.

Dr. Tal, who chaired the UNESCO conference held in Paris early this week, said that the attack on the organisation and its director general is not "mere chance" but rather a deliberate act to sabotage world cooperation and the aspirations of the peoples of the Third World.

He praised the endurance, high moral and confidence of UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar Mbow who, he said, was under constant attack from the U.S. and its allies.

Dr. Tal said that the conference's general secretariat stressed its hope that American intellectual and scientific circles

might still play a role in convincing the U.S. government to reconsider its decision.

He called on all nations to display moral and financial support to UNESCO to help the organisation avert the threat of other nations pulling out and to enable UNESCO to deal with its budget deficit, now standing at \$28 million.

Dr. Tal said that the French government has donated \$2 million, the Soviet Union \$2.5 million and Tunisia, Syria and Pakistan donated other sums. He hoped that more donations will help to further reduce the organisation's deficit.

Dr. Tal pointed out that the executive council, which ended its

fourth extraordinary session in Paris this week, discussed arrangements resulting from the U.S.A.'s withdrawal from UNESCO and the shortage in revenues, issues related to the U.S. staff working in UNESCO as well as the U.S. request to be an observer member in UNESCO.

He also pointed out that the conference recommended that the defined contributions of any member country should not be increased as a result of the permanent deficit resulting from the withdrawal of any member country in the conference and that member countries should urgently pay their due and delayed contributions.

## Ministry distributes tawjihi results

AMMAN (Petra).—The Ministry of Education Wednesday distributed results of the first tawjihi examination session to all Ministry of Education departments in the governorates and district governorates of the Kingdom. A spokesman at the Ministry of Education told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that these results form 50 per cent of the total grades of the tawjihi examination.

## Austrian foodstuffs exhibition attracts Jordanian companies, businessmen

Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A fourteen member Austrian trade mission for foodstuffs and food processing equipment has organised a two-day exhibition at the Regency Palace hotel in Amman.

The exhibition, which opened on Tuesday, is organised by the Austrian Economic Community, an organisation of Austrian commercial companies, traders, banks and institutions. Mr. Oskar Smarzka, director of the Middle East Department at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Smarzka said that Austria buys Jordanian goods, mostly potatoes and vegetables, approximately Austrian Shillings 150 million (JD 2.7 million) a year, whereas Jordan imports from Austria nearly JD 8.1 million (Austrian Shillings 450 million) in 1984.

Mr. Smarzka, who is also the organiser of this business opportunity meeting for foodstuffs,

beverages, and supermarket equipment said that Jordan's imports from Austria includes cheese, milk powder, machinery, trucks, basic components for plastic industries and building materials for the new television centre which is being constructed by Austrian contractors.

Mr. Herbert Holzer, commercial counsellor at the Austrian Embassy in Amman, said that in the summer of 1984 a similar exhibition took place at one of Amman's leading hotels under the title "Austrian Week" which aimed to increase the popularity of Austrian food and dishes in Jordan.

Austrian items exhibited during the two days attracted 58 Jordanian companies who all signed trade agreements with Austrian companies present at the exhibition. Mr. Holzer added that 120 business men also signed trade agreements with the Austrian companies present.

The exhibition included: Flavours compounds for beverages, confectionary, ice-cream,

sparkling mineral water, apple and grape juices, sausages of all kinds, beef and turkey meat, natural and processed cheese, pickled food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beer, convenient food for catering canteens and complete plants to produce convenient foods according to the most advanced technology of thermo-stabilisation, also canned meat spreads, farinaceous products, refrigeration plants for food stuff industries, disposable tableware, biscuits, chocolates, preserved vegetables, food processing and packing equipment and food smoking equipment.

Mr. Smarzka said that the Austrian delegation has visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where they held the same exhibition. He added that Saudi Arabia is the number one market for Austrian products in the Middle East.

Mr. Holzer said that the Austrian Economic Community will organise another exhibition in Amman in September of this year to promote hospital equipment.

## Young, local artists show their style

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opening this week along with the big Housing Bank's cultural fair, whose art show brought to attention the names of several young artists who are gradually making their presence felt, are exhibitions by two other young Jordanian artists of promise. The work of one of them — Yousef Baddawi — is probably familiar to many already as he has previously held four substantial exhibitions of his oil paintings.

While showing a dramatic increase in technical ability from the first of these exhibitions to the latter, held last summer at the old Alia Gallery, Baddawi also revealed himself to have a keen eye for the life around him — the bedouins on their donkeys, the male-dominated cafes, the souks full of the bright colours of cheap goods — and with his innate sense of colour and composition he was able to give these scenes their movement, their life and, via his appealing simplicity and spontaneity, some of their unique atmosphere.

Baddawi's present exhibition at the new Alia Gallery, however, is somewhat disappointing, not so much from the point of view of the quality of the work which is generally good, but rather it has little new to say. These watercolours tend to be very similar to his oil paintings and while originality is not always so important, perhaps in this case it is, as Baddawi is obviously trying to show what he can do with a different media. Secondly the show is a little disappointing in that it is such a small exhibition. It makes one wonder why he wanted to exhibit now when he has only around 28 new paintings to show, padded out with a couple of old etchings which he first exhibited, along with the



Spidery, black china ink drawings with washes of colour characterise Maha Syoof's first solo exhibition.

other students from the Centre for Music and Fine Arts back in 1980. In view of this it might have been better for Baddawi to have waited until he had a more substantial body of work in which he had explored different facets of the media and of his chosen genre — as he is starting to do with the very attractive Aqaba scenes and with the patiently waiting groups of labourers on the lookout for the pickup truck that will take them to work.

## Student's solo show

Maha Syoof does not have Baddawi's unenviable problem of already having a reputation to live up to as this exhibition at the Jordan University Library is her first solo show. A 22-year-old agricultural student in her final year, Syoof has been a regular attendant at the small studio at the university where students can study art in their spare time. Syoof is also the first of these students to hold her own show. Her work, however, first drew attention to itself at a group show at the Royal Cultural

Centre last year where her delicate watercolours made up, collage-like, of the different designs and patterns she had seen on a visit to the Jordan Folklore Museum, down by the old Roman Amphitheatre, stood out above the rest.

And it is these paintings, with their spidery lines of black china ink and soft barely visible washes of colour that are the most attractive and important works at her solo show. It is obvious from the way the paint and lines have been confidently and deftly applied that Syoof feels at home with these works. There is nothing contrived about them as there is about many of the other pieces and although she is still in the very early stages of finding herself as an artist it will probably be via these paintings that she will discover her true direction.

Again it might have been better if she had had a more cohesive body of work before she had attempted to exhibit, but sometimes by seeing all your work hung together you get a better perspective of what you have achieved and what you can go on to do.

## Renault 25.

## THE NEW STAR OF LUXURY SALOONS

Born of meticulous design and highly sophisticated technology, the Renault 25 has changed the world's way of looking at automobiles.

Its shape, its aerodynamics, its equipment, its use of space all add up to a totally new definition of safety, luxury and efficiency.

The Renault 25 is the end product of a very elaborate design process. Wind tun-

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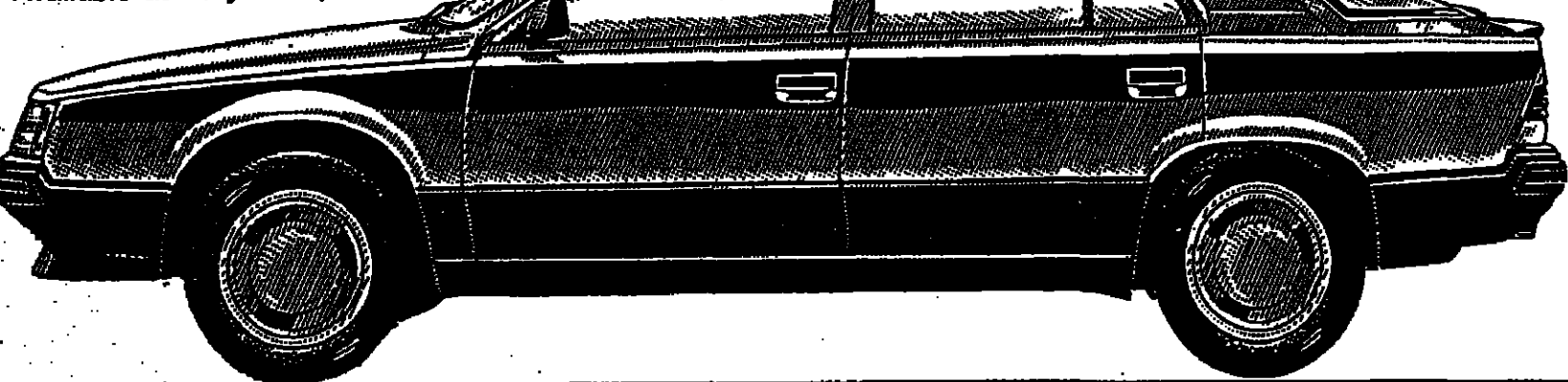
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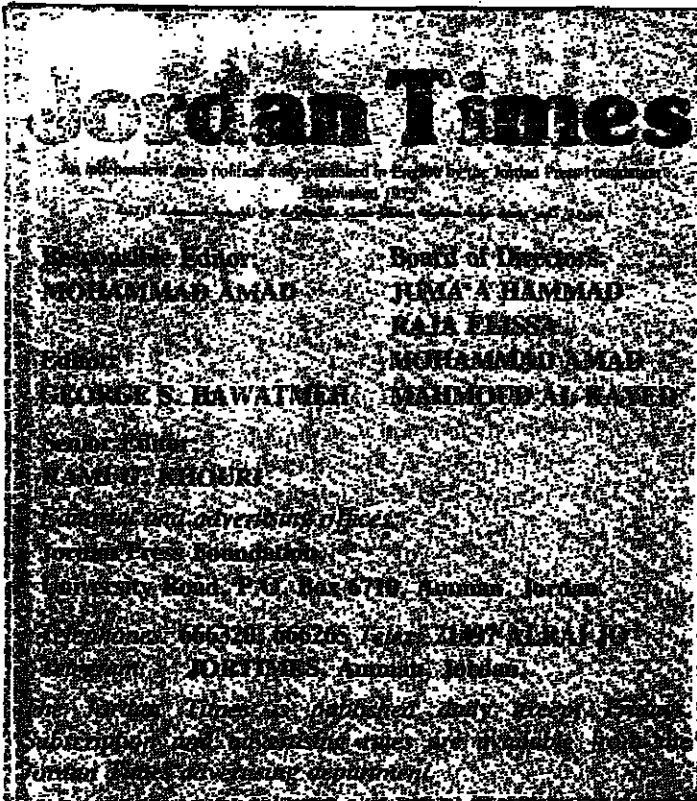
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## Issues of principle

THE ON-GOING debate about the real significance of the Jordan-PLO accord of last week runs the risk of focusing too much attention on details, while ignoring the more important issues of principle that should be addressed.

The news from Tunis that the PLO's Executive Committee and other Palestinian quarters have approved the accord should add to its importance. This is not because there are major new political positions in the accord. In fact, most of the details that have been released seem to reflect positions the Arabs accepted several years ago.

The important thing is the manner in which the PLO and Jordan have brought into one package several different elements related to Arab-Israeli peace-making, with the intention of having this joint position reflect a broader Arab consensus on the possibilities of negotiating peace with Israel.

Thus, it is silly for people to spend so much time investigating whether or not the accord means the PLO has accepted U.N. Security Council resolution 242. The answer is: yes and no. No, the PLO does not accept 242 as an isolated resolution. Yes, the PLO accepts the concept of exchanging land for peace, the fundamental and operative concept that forms the political heart of 242.

The greater significance of the Jordan-PLO accord is that it sends a message, it tells Israelis and others to the west that there is a growing consensus for negotiations in the Arab World as the best means to resolve the Palestinian issue. The message is rather clear, even if its component parts are open to discussion and refinement.

It seems to us that those who care to move peace prospects forward should now look more closely at Israel, the United States, the Soviet Union, and others who have to respond positively if Arab peace overtures are to get anywhere.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Geneva should be a new beginning

AFTER SEVEN years of total deadlock in the efforts for solving the Middle East question, the two superpowers are now trying their hand at it again. The most important indication about the meeting in Vienna is that it underlines the fact that no single power can solve this problem alone and that efforts have to be concerted and pooled together if any concrete results are to be achieved.

The United States had tried to handle the issue alone and failed because it chose to support one side against the other and continued to adopt the Israeli views on the different issues stemming from the Middle East situation. The United States has been refusing the idea of an international conference like Israel and has been finding excuses for not involving the Soviet Union in peace efforts in the fact that Moscow does not maintain diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv. But at the same time the United States and Israel have not yet recognised the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, which was usurped by the Zionist aggressor.

Both Israel and the United States have condoned terrorist actions by Zionists against the Palestinian people, evicting them from their land and generating the present state of tension in the whole region. In contrast, the Soviet Union has been supporting what is right and just and acting upon this principle, it has severed relations with the Israeli aggressors who continue to occupy other nations' land by force in defiance of world laws and the will of the international community.

We consider the Vienna meeting as a step in the right direction, coming amidst renewed diplomatic activity designed to reactivate efforts for a just Middle East settlement.

### Al Dustour: Kuwaiti elections, pleasing event

THE GENERAL elections taking place in Kuwait Wednesday should serve as an example that ought to be copied by other Gulf states and other countries in the Arab World. The elections represent a way of political life that enables Kuwaitis to absorb modernisation and at the same time guarantees for the people active participation in public affairs within the framework of the nation's interests.

What attracts attention about these elections is that they take part in an area that has long been plagued by disturbances that affected Kuwait along with the other Gulf countries. These circumstances, however, did not cause the Kuwaitis to postpone the elections or cancel them altogether as in many other Arab countries whose peoples are denied the right to any participation in public affairs.

The Kuwaitis, like the Jordanians, have experienced parliamentary life for so long, as they believe on democracy, and this has won them respect and admiration from other Arab states.

In Jordan we have experienced parliamentary life for many years and therefore, we are delighted to see kinsmen in other countries also practising their democratic life which should be exercised by all nations.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Discussing trouble spots

WE REALISE that the Middle East will not be the only topic on the agenda of talks by representatives of the superpowers now meeting in Vienna. The two superpowers will be discussing Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in Lebanon and their bilateral relations in addition to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Their meetings, though exploratory, are looked on as significant, coming after so many years of deadlock in efforts to find solutions to world problems.

The Americans have described the meeting as a stock-taking and an opportunity for an exchange of views about these problems. We do not expect miracles from this meeting because the two superpowers will be discussing a wide range of issues connected with the trouble spots around the world. But we hope that Moscow and Washington will not seek solutions that serve their own interests and at the expense of smaller nations.

The two superpowers have a moral obligation to preserve world peace and security; and their efforts should be directed in a course that would achieve that goal.

## VIEW FROM AMERICA

# Economic troubles nourish world-wide drug trade

By Franz Schurmann

ECONOMICS USED to be considered a science as capable of exactness as physics. We worshipped economists like some high priests. But alas, the predictions of economists have turned out to be faulty. Now many are suffering the extreme indignity of being laughed at.

But I do not want to add to the laughter in this commentary but only point to one aspect of world economics which the economics priesthood has ignored: the gigantic and growing trade in illicit drugs.

Some observers say that drugs may be the single most profitable export of raw materials from the "Third" to the "First" world. Many billions of dollars flow into poor "Third World" countries because of this trade. It makes it

possible for millions of peasants to stay in their villages rather than migrate into already over-saturated cities.

Here in the U.S. use of cocaine has reached epidemic proportions. Demand is up and so is supply. The price of cocaine has been falling. Through dealing in cocaine can result in long years in prison, the trade has not been halted. There is so much profit to be made in it that no matter how severe the punishments, new dealers always appear.

In addition to cocaine, all kinds of other drugs are consumed from the dangerously powerful heroin and LSD to milder ones like marijuana (somewhat like the hashish of the Middle East). Though a few are made from chemicals, the

majority come from the leaves of plants that are overwhelmingly grown in "Third World" countries.

Cocaine comes from coca leaves that are grown in many South American countries. Heroin comes from the leaves of the poppy flower. Marijuana comes from a plant that grows almost all over the world.

The drug trade can be better understood if we look at similar trading in stimulants in earlier centuries. Take tobacco. The British and Spaniards discovered its use among American Indians. Within twenty-five years its use had spread all over the world. Reports from the interior of China dating around 1520 speak of people trying the new pleasure of smoking

tobacco. So with coffee. In the 1700's it was introduced into Europe from Yemen and spread like fire.

Modern drugs, just like tobacco and coffee, are the products of a large-scale exchange between developed and developing countries. Let's consider cocaine as an example.

Up and down the Andes mountain region of South America Indians raise the coca plant. Cultivation is easy. Harvesting is easy. Income for the peasant is big. There are no other crops he can raise as profitably.

The dealers often have close links to local governments. The officials get a pay-off, but the profits for the dealers remain huge. Even after these subtractions of

money, the selling price on American and European markets is so great that the big dealers can make millions upon millions in profit.

Why is there so much demand for drugs on the American market? One might as well ask: Why do people smoke so much when the evidence is clear that cigarettes can be dangerous to health? The answer seems simple. In modern society we are always on the move, and stimulants help us restore some of balance within ourselves. For some people the lack of internal balance is so great that they must resort to strong drugs.

There is an intimate relationship between modern civilisation and the use of stimulants. Now, U.N. authorities tell us

that drug addiction is on the rise in the developing countries. This simply indicates that the developing countries are acquiring the same vices as the developed countries.

The Reagan administration has been trying to curtail production of drug-producing plants. But so far it has not succeeded. The peasants are so poor and the profits so great that elimination is impossible. And trying to reduce demand in the U.S. is as futile as seeking to curb the use of tobacco, coffee, or tea.

Abstinence through personal conviction is in the end the only way intoxicants can be eliminated. That means finding something which gives internal balance that does not derive from drugs.

## Tide of pacifism puts pressure on Western pacts

By Drew Middleton

NEW YORK — Alliances can and do stand the hard pounding of war. But as events since Feb. 4 have shown, they are susceptible to more insidious pressures.

The ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, United States) alliance that has flourished since 1951, when the pact was signed, has been seriously weakened in more recent days by discord over nuclear weapons. And NATO, the linchpin of U.S. policy in Europe, suffers from what Europeans consider an overdose of U.S. leadership, and the steady development of anti-NATO and anti-nuclear opinion.

Relations with South Korea, the sole American military outpost on the East Asian mainland, have been strained by Seoul's mishandling and manhandling of the opposition leader, Kim Dae Jung, and his accompanying party upon his return from self-imposed exile in the United States. That incident seems to stress the wisdom of Demosthenes' axiom: "Close alliances with despots are never safe for free states."

Do these incidents foreshadow a breakdown of the alliance system, with all that would entail in the rearrangement of American military deployments? I think not. What the incidents do require, however, is more informed diplomatic reporting on the tides of public opinion that influence allied governments.

Since April 1952, the ANZUS pact has been the keystone of U.S. defence in the southwest Pacific. Article 4 says: "Each party recognises that an armed attack in the Pacific area on any of the parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common

danger in accordance with its constitutional process."

At the same moment when, in light of events of the last several days, American leaders were re-evaluating the willingness of the other two signatories to implement this provision, the U.S. 7th Fleet warned interested countries in the area about Soviet work at Cam Ranh Bay, the old American base in Vietnam. After two years of work, the Russians have rebuilt and expanded the base for the use by their Pacific fleet, headquartered in Vladivostok in Siberia.

Warnings such as these are unlikely to alter the large body of anti-nuclear public opinion in both New Zealand and Australia. The Wellington government, with wide popular support, refuses to allow any American Navy vessel carrying nuclear weapons to enter its territorial waters. Australia has refused to assist in the test of the U.S. MX missile.

No immediate damage was inflicted on the American strategic position by these actions. The long-term question is how far the United States could rely on Australia and New Zealand in the event of a serious situation arising in the ANZUS region, even if conventional weapons were the only ones likely to be used.

Would the two governments, goaded by anti-nuclear forces, reject in a time of peril the help of an American carrier, which, almost inevitably, would carry nuclear weapons of some type? On the record of the last weeks, it seems likely. This sentiment contrasts with the welcome the two countries gave American troops, ships and planes early in 1942, when the Japanese were on the march.

President Ronald Reagan emerged from his talks with Prime

Minister Bob Hawke of Australia proclaiming that the ANZUS alliance "is very sound and very solid." This is the comment of an invincible optimist on an international situation that worries even the mildly pessimistic.

Yet, American pressure on New Zealand in the form of economic sanctions, no matter how mild, would probably backfire. Anti-nuclearism and pacifism are well advanced there and such pressure would probably reap a dividend of anti-Americanism.

Halfway around the world the twin viruses of anti-nuclearism and pacifism evident "down under" are affecting the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which must be considered the most important U.S. alliance.

Lord Carrington, who presides over NATO's political organisation, recently pointed out one reason why anti-nuclear and pacifist groups flourish in alliance countries. Young and middle-aged Europeans, he noted, find it difficult to take the alliance seriously, because they did not experience World War II or the first desperate years of the Cold War that included the Berlin blockade.

"They simply see the long years of peace," Lord Carrington said, "and then ask whether NATO is really necessary, despite the fact that NATO has guaranteed that peace."

Other elements also contribute to the present erosion of support for NATO in European countries. The most obvious is that the alliance is seen as an instrument for, if need be, nuclear warfare, and that repels the millions who are understandably frightened of such warfare.

Sheer cost also saps NATO support. The economies of NATO Europe cannot now support the

increases in defence expenditure to which past governments agreed. To do so inevitably would cut into funds earmarked for welfare and provide the growing anti-NATO, anti-nuclear forces with more ammunition.

Finally, of course, there is the Reagan administration's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) commonly called "Star Wars." NATO opposition to SDI rests on three main points:

One, it will not work, or if it does, it will cover the United States and not Europe. U.S. spokesmen have told NATO that SDI will protect Europe from the Soviet SS-20 missiles now aimed at it as much as it will protect America from the SS-19s.

Two, the American investment in SDI will be so huge that it will starve U.S. and allied forces of the conventional weapons needed to meet a Russian invasion of Western Europe.

Three, the United States is plunging into the programme without taking into account that the Soviet Union is likely to respond by building more land- and sea-based intercontinental ballistic missiles than SDI could shoot down, thus increasing the danger of a Soviet preemptive strike.

Governments in NATO Europe, on the whole, support the alliance. But NATO is made up of democracies where the tide of anti-nuclear and anti-NATO sentiment is rising. General Bernard Rogers, the supreme allied commander in Europe, is extremely concerned with this tide.

He pointed out recently that serious people, and not just fanatics, increasingly think in terms of pacifism, neutralism and accommodation with the East. It is the entrance of such people into the anti-NATO, anti-nuclear



If you catch cold, don't blame me.

group that makes the movement so dangerous to governments dependent on popular support.

Is there a way out? General Rogers thinks that showing aerial photographs from U.S. spy satellites to the European public would do much good. These show Soviet and Warsaw Pact military moves that can only be interpreted as having offensive aims.

The photos conceivably might answer those Europeans who doubt the value of the alliance and those Americans who urge the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Europe. Unfortunately, the Reagan administration believes the use of these photos would give the Soviets information about U.S. spying capacity — information that they already have — International Herald Tribune.

## Pakistan holds general election with little change foreseen

By Charles J. Hanley  
Associated Press

PAPEETE, Tahiti — France has rebuffed new protests against its nuclear testing in Polynesia, and turned "la bombe" into a political weapon for independence activists in these storied South Sea isles.

Prying Polynesia from the French colonial grasp remains unlikely for now, however. This, the Tahitians explain, is not New Caledonia.

In that sister colony across the Pacific, racial tensions between indigenous Melanesians and French settlers have exploded into violence over independence.

Here in the eastern Pacific, by contrast, generations of intermingling between the French and the Polynesians have produced a more harmonious society,

in a languid South Seas "paradise."

"It's difficult," said one frustrated anti-nuclear activist, Swedish anthropologist Bengt Danielsson, a longtime Tahiti resident.

"The Polynesians simply don't see the point of protesting in the streets. It's such a European thing to do."

But the Polynesians' "laissez-faire" attitude is not the only factor that keeps them inside a shrinking French empire.

For the French military, the nuclear testing station has simply become too important for independence even to be contemplated for Tahiti and French Polynesia's 130 other scattered islands. And for the Polynesians the military establishment is an economic necessity — their sta-

ndard of living would collapse if they had to depend on coconuts, wear and tourism.

The territorial president, Gaston Flosse, chosen by the popularly elected territorial assembly, says that if Polynesians voted in a referendum on nuclear testing "they would vote to keep it going, for economic reasons."

The 18-year-old nuclear programme has helped propel these islands — the "Garden of Eden" found by 18th-century explorer Bougainville — into the modern age.

Much of the legendary allure remains: radiant sun and people, crystalline lagoons, jagged velvety peaks beckoning through the mists. But a four-lane freeway now cuts through Gauguin's Tahitian landscapes, "no swimming"

signs are posted at Papeete's polluted beach, and smog occasionally settles over the bustling capital.

French Polynesia's 160,000 people are on average among the Pacific's wealthiest. By 1980 their gross national product per-capita already stood at \$7,619, compared with \$4,285 for nearby American Samoa.

Much of the income flows from the "CEP," the Centre d'Experimentation du Pacifique, the military's nuclear-testing agency, whose payroll, purchasing and other spending account for one-third of the local economy.

Since 1966, the CEP has exploded at least 136 nuclear devices in Polynesia, almost all at Moruroa Atoll, a loop of islets ringing a lagoon 1,222 kilometres southeast of Tahiti. A scientific com-

munity of 3,000 people has sprung up on the otherwise uninhabited Atoll.

For the first eight years, the experimental blasts were set off above ground, spewing radioactive fallout into the atmosphere and drawing international protests. In 1974, the French moved the tests underground at Moruroa and worldwide protests subsided.

But the territorial assembly continued to call periodically — and futilely — for a suspension of testing and an independent scientific survey of possible dangers.

Church leaders also came out against the testing programme, and last February and March 1,500 Tahitians joined in two street demonstrations, the first in 11 years against "la bombe."

Independence advocates linked the protests to their cause.

"Only the independence of Polynesia could put an end to the nuclear tests," declared Oscar Temaru, a suburban Papeete mayor and leader of the small Polynesian liberation front.

The French finally permitted a team of New Zealand and Australian scientists to examine Moruroa, and they reported last July that although they found evidence of geological damage to the Atoll, there was no evidence of long-term health effects.

President Flosse, a 53-year-old conservative of Polynesian-French ancestry, said in an interview he supports the nuclear testing as long as it is safe, and opposes independence for French Polynesia.

## Polynesian anti-nuclear protests feed independence calls

By Tom Heneghan  
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan next week holds its first general election in eight years, with the military government of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq aiming to replace traditional political leaders by faces more to its own liking.

Gen. Zia, who called off two earlier polls because the leftist opposition seemed set to win, says he wants an "Islamic democracy" but believes Pakistan too unstable to allow a return of the tumultuous party politics of the 1970s.

So he has banned parties, disqualified candidates and greatly limited campaigning to allow a free field for government backers, while keeping the opposition from creating the kind of street protests and strife that preceded his 1977 coup.

A roundup of opposition leaders calling for the poll's boycott began last month and the military has now arrested or detained all of

them. More than 1,100 candidates are running on an individual basis for the 217 elected seats in the National Assembly. With their eyes on neighbouring Afghanistan, the United States and other Western nations are backing Gen. Zia, seeing him as the key to a continued flow of arms and supplies to guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Despite Gen. Zia's actions, many of the candidates are leaders of the old families, tribes and interest groups that have long dominated this poor country of more than 90 million people.

Some are even former members of the banned parties which say the poll will not revive democracy. This has raised the question whether the poll will lead to the new era of enlightened and controlled politics Gen. Zia wants, or leave the country with a government lacking the authority to rule.

"My prediction is that they will not be able to hold that gov-

ernment for six months," says Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, acting head of the large Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and a leading figure in the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

The president, who took 90 months before scheduling the polls he had promised within 90 days, says he wants to end the divisive situation he says brought Pakistan to the brink of civil war under former PPP Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, overthrown by Gen. Zia and later hanged.

Gen. Zia appears to be building a system based on the limited democracy introduced in Turkey by his personal friend, General Kenan Evren.

An army-led National Security council would oversee political life as in Turkey and parties might be reestablished in a limited number as they were in Ankara.

Following another Turkish precedent, Gen. Zia assured himself another five years in power by calling a snap referendum on his is-

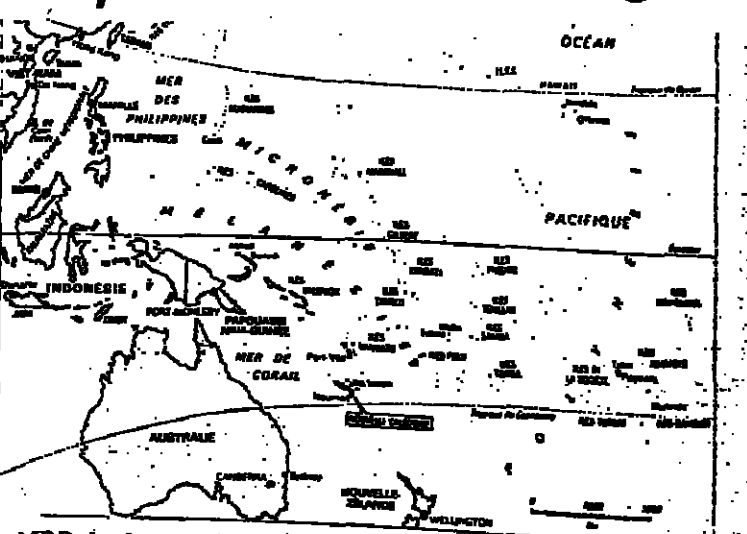
amic reforms last December and interpreting the result as a mandate to stay on.

He now plans to amend the suspended 1973 constitution to change the country from a British-style parliamentary system to a presidential form of government as in Turkey or France.

The National Assembly will open on March 23, probably to confirm the referendum result and pass an indemnity act protecting Gen. Zia and others from treason charges for abrogating the constitution and ruling by fiat for almost eight years.

A few months after that — Gen. Zia is careful never to reveal when — martial law is to be lifted and the president should give up his powerful position as chief of army staff.

If all goes well, the new politicians should establish themselves during the five-year life of the assembly, outflanking the traditional leaders and then beating them in less controlled general elections next time.



MRD leaders say the people will reject the new assembly because the polls will be massively rigged. They point to the fate of Mr. Bhutto, who fell after four months of protests against alleged rigging of the March 1977 election.

A senior government official who asked not to be named said he saw difficulties arising among the favoured candidates.

"These men will not be opposition types but they will have paid hundreds of thousands of rupees to get themselves elected and will want something in return," he said.

"Zia could find them harder to deal with than he expects."



## THE LITERARY CORNER

## Koranic influence on the works of Al-Ajlouni

"IN AL-SAREEH, my hometown in the northern part of Jordan, I was brought up by a benevolent, religious family. We used to gather around the fireplace reciting the Koran; a family member would read a verse, another member reads another verse and so until we finish a whole chapter and then move to another. My grandmother, a benign woman, used to recite religious, double-rhymed songs which we — the children of the family — learnt by heart due to frequent repetition." Such was the atmosphere which produced a serious, talented poet called Ibrahim Al-Ajlouni. The poet is not a fundamentalist, neither is he a fanatic Muslim: "I am a true believer, that's all. I even have friends among the toughest of radicals with whom I objectively discuss the most complex matters of life."

Ibrahim Al-Ajlouni, a soldier's son, was born in the Jordanian town of Al-Sareeh in 1948. He spent his early childhood in the northern Jordanian village and then moved with his father to Amman, whose charm and love turned him into a devout Muslim. He completed his elementary, preparatory, and secondary schooling in the capital. Like most of the Jordanian writers, Ajlouni graduated from the Arab University of Beirut with a B.A. degree in Arabic (quite phenomenal among the Jordanian poets). The writer occupied important cultural posts: editing secretary of "Alfakr" magazine, chief of the cultural section at the Jordanian Broadcasting Station, and presently he is the cultural editor of Al-Rai daily. Ajlouni has two published verse collections: "Tones on the Wounds (1973)" and "When We Meet (1980)". The mystic poet has also the following books published: "On Philosophy and Koranic Address (1984)", "Axioms in Light of Realisation (1982)", and "Views on the Jordanian Cultural Situation (1979)". He has many essays on Islamic culture and other serious matters published in the most highly esteemed magazines and dailies.

The Koran's sharp influence on Ajlouni can be best reflected in the following passage which I quoted from his book "On Philosophy and Koranic Address." The Koran is the quintessence, the means, and the end:

"The main idea which I advocated is that any attempt exerted to understand the Arab individual, history and thought should necessarily adopt the Koran as an axis, a starting point, and a refuge."

The philosopher in Ajlouni believes that:

"Many men of thought in the West have begun a new, serious stage of investigating into our rightful religion, which we hope to lead them to the right path."

He also believes that the attempts of positivism do badly need: "Godly direction, void of vanities from the front and the back, for he who does not make God his light shall have no light." (Purely Koranic language which delineates the Holy Book's influence on the poet).

However, the Koran's influence on Ajlouni's poetry, despite the paucity of this poetry, is far more conspicuous. Although it is difficult to convey to English the Koranic diction which the poet used, I tried to indicate the words he used by putting asterisks beside them. It should be noted, however, that the first four words — constituting the first four lines — in the following verse are impossible to translate: some Muslims believe that the usage of such untranslatable words denote the miraculous eloquence of the Holy Book:

"Kaf"  
Lam"  
Ale"  
Meem"  
The letters scream with determination  
And the words have the taste of daggers  
I blow thy balloon to help them grow  
And you have to master doting  
The first is Kaf and the last Meem"

In a poem entitled "Three Psalms at the Threshold of Night," Ajlouni, still lading from the Koranic diction, mystically addresses God to express his perdition and to ask for salvation:

"At thy door  
My demolished temple heaped up, licking its deep wound  
Cursing its bad luck  
Emitting a puzzled tune from its rosy sadness  
Groaning on the paths of wind, chewing the tune of pain  
And searching for an echo lost in the vertigo of nothingness  
Aimlessly wandering around while the sky's ears are full of woe  
And a thousand grievances in the eyes  
And a thousand prayers  
And tears like stones blocked the aperture of light,  
And pulled it to the abyss of darkness  
(Its good tidings) for thy beloved  
Heralding the coming of thy rejoicing rain."

At thy door  
I spend years inscribing the letters of my elegy  
And watching my imminent death  
Tis told these were thy commanded terms  
And these were the registration stamps in your sublime Kingdom  
At thy door.

Ajlouni is also influenced by the Koranic style which, by and large, has always been affecting Arab writers and thinkers. Within this context the poet writes of Rima Tannus, a Palestinian commando woman imprisoned by the Israelis:

"Rima! I have no command over my destiny  
Al-Tu's fires were off, the knights went astray  
And the shrike was sent back by the sand hills  
I was left with no one but God and this sword  
I said I'd make a raid  
Maybe, man would wake up  
Maybe, Rima, man would wake up.  
In the same poem which, in my humble opinion is his best ever, he follows his mystic lines as he addresses the Palestinian captivated heroine:

"Rima is my Arab Sphinx  
The desert blaze with which I run after the rosy deer  
The dawn breeze is proud of her, striving towards sublime zones  
Rima, I have no command over my destiny  
Whispering can become seductive at the doors of our city for the guard.

The harlot, and the prisoner  
And, sister of expatriation and sadness,  
They'd tied my voice with a thong and thrown me in a well and said

"Tis a wonder what they said, sister, my torture was destined.  
Our poet wound up dissecting the internal and external loss of the Arab individual, assimilating himself to the story of Joseph, whose brothers threw him in a well — an implicit allusion!

In a poem entitled "Bitter Grapes", Ajlouni, still resorting to the Koranic style, describes the absurd time of the present and the imminent explosion. He metaphysically poses the types of questions that absurdly dance at the edge of fear, inhibitions and uncertainty:

"What if a fry quaver was sung in the wedding of the handsome?  
Or the song of oppression?  
What if moaning dies by embracing a storm?  
And your patience papers are scattered  
In the path of wind?  
What if the wound penetrated into the wound of Christ?  
Or melted as songs whispering to dawn?  
Are you sustaining time and your worn-out loom wearing the dream?  
Night... and illusion  
Morning... and blood.

Ye, who weeps without refuge  
Free your tears from captivity  
And explode... This is the explosion time.  
You and I

## A poet from Sareeh

And everyone chewing silence  
And everyone ridiculing this hatred  
And everyone blowing fire in this mansion  
And everyone living while dead  
All of us, do sell in an auction the chastity of voice  
But, my friend, if I choose, I would cross the river of silence  
You and I."

It seems that the defeated individual chose otherwise, for it is an "if", not a determined will.

This beautiful, profound, and excellent poetry is a natural product by a talented poet delving deeply into his own Islamic culture — basically the mystic schools — without losing sight of the importance of the Western civilisation — an educated poet is a rarity nowadays!  
In the midst of the poetical draught and sterility which the Jordanian literary arena suffers from, Ajlouni's poetry includes nothing hackneyed, or trivial. His poetry gives pleasure through musical quality as well as through temptation of beauty it inspires, beauty of thought, of feeling, of expression, and of technical skill. He even goes beyond that and tells us of our unspoken thoughts and our varied moods — quite phenomenal of good poets. Ajlouni's few poems galvanise our souls from the slough of indifference and apathy into which most of us went to fall, into energy and hopefulness and renewed accomplishments — no wonder then, that many of the Arabic language Academy members rank him as one of the top poets of the country.

But Mr. Ajlouni stopped writing verse five years ago. This is absolutely a passive step on the part of a poet of Ajlouni's calibre, a dilemma which we hope he will surmount very soon.

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habibi's  
Gossip has wings

GOSSIP FLOURISHES all over the world and here in Jordan, it is no exception. Gossip exists because people like to talk, report facts they have heard or seen.

By and large, gossip is created because common events are uninteresting and because there is always someone to transfer an innocent word into an offense, a banal fact into an important event.

The reason is that innocence and common events are nothing extraordinary or exciting and because gossip creators are eager for the extraordinary, in a blink, they make the necessary transformation of facts.

You must have witnessed, one day or another, or been the subject of a gossip project. When you try to trace the source of the information, the initiation of the "gossip operation", you discover that all started with a banal act or even a simple word.

You can count on these ladies and gentlemen to amplify it. And like a snowball rolling down the mountain, the story gets bigger and bigger to become at the end... an avalanche.

The result is a shock, sometimes even a scandal. Some are happy because their intrigues have paid off. The others, the object of such social manoeuvres, are hurt and wounded... why?

In those cases one has always to look whom the scandal has served, and then one can understand.

The motives are numerous: Sheer wickedness of those who hate to see people happy; Jealousy and poor consciences; The gossip is very simple: to play deaf.

Let the tongues go loose for one day, these tongues will sting each others.

## Saunders sees 'new level of Arab sophistication' in accord

(Continued from page 1)

assured the highest level of American attention to what happened out here, and probably provided King Fahd with an opportunity to call the president's attention to the substance and significance of what had happened. The timing was well done, and I don't think that was accidental. They obviously got their job done here. President Reagan was immediately alerted to the significance of what happened here, and the president's initial statements seem to keep the door open. This agreement is still in flux, and therefore it would be wrong for the president of the United States to react definitely, because he does not yet have the definitive version of the Jordanian-PLO position and the deliberations within the PLO.

"If the United States wants to be preoccupied with other questions and not pay much attention to a development such as this, it can always do so. But it can't do so

when the king of Saudi Arabia is sitting in the Oval Office in the White House with the president of the United States. The president can't pretend that the agreement isn't there under those circumstances.

"If you look at the present situation, we are not in a period of active negotiations, as happened in the 1970s. Today, we are in that part of the negotiating process that comes before negotiations. We can call this the pre-negotiations period, during which leaders are considering whether or not to negotiate. While the period of actual negotiations is one of intense diplomacy, the pre-negotiations period is one of intensive politics where leaders are getting the political support in place they will need to conduct a negotiation and sustain an agreement that they may reach. What we're seeing now is that period of politics, not the period of active diplomatic negotiations between Arabs and Israelis.

"In this period of politics, you

are trying to rearrange the political environment. If the Palestinians could now capitalise on the Israeli conscience after the invasion of Lebanon, and transfer it from Lebanon to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, then you could keep the momentum alive. The possibility is there.

"Other things that are possible in this period of politics relate to internal Israeli affairs, and the possibility of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres building a broader coalition for peace. The feeling remains strong in Israel since the Lebanese invasion that the military cannot resolve political issues.

"For tactical reasons, the Labour Party played down the peace issue during the elections last year. They chose not to emphasise it, because they knew it would divide the electorate. They chose to try to win on other issues, and to deal with the peace issue at a later stage from the position of a governing party.

"In terms of their commitment

to move towards a negotiated settlement, my impression from the talks there last week is that the Labour Party leaders remain strongly committed to negotiations as the way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The only question is the politics of it. There may come a moment when the Israeli government coalition divides, and new elections may be held. Peres has to be careful tactically to get as far down the road before he has to either engage the full coalition or engage the Israeli electorate on the question of peace with the Palestinians and the Arab states. He has to have the best possible case for peace talks if he is to engage the electorate on this issue.

"The Arabs say they are militarily weaker than Israel and therefore could not engage Israel in a fair negotiation for peace. I think the Arabs are neglecting a power that they have never tried to use. It's the power of conscience — the same power that the Israeli people used to get their government to

pull out of Lebanon. The Arabs should never underestimate the power of conscience.

"I believe the Palestinians have the potential to challenge the Israeli people by calling to their attention the degrading and corrupting character of the military occupation for Israel. The Palestinians and the Arab countries neighbouring Israel have a vast, unused potential to address the Israeli people directly on matters of conscience. The Israeli reaction to the Lebanon situation was a reaction of human conscience to the use of force in the accomplishment of the wrong purposes — not security and defence, but the accomplishment of unachievable political objectives.

"We are seeing a new kind of politics on the Arab side. The Jordan-PLO agreement is a political step of great significance. Related to the Jordan-PLO talks are other factors, such as the critical internal deliberations within the PLO, the engagement of Saudi

Arabia, Algeria, Egypt and others in the broader diplomatic discussions within the Arab World, and King Fahd's personal intervention with President Reagan last week, on the day that the Jordan-PLO accord was announced.

"If all of the activity on the Arab sides falls into place, and Washington is brought into the picture at a later stage, the timing and manner of the presentation of the Arab position to Israel become terribly important. The question will then be: How can the move be timed so as to maximise the support for negotiations within Israel?

"A lot of attention has to be paid to something that the Arab World has not paid enough attention to in the past: how do you present your case in an operationally compelling way. How do you put it into play? You have to present your case in a way that generates the right kind of political activity on the other side."

## Peres 'ready to travel to Amman for peace talks'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Craxi who in the past has supported a more active European role in Middle East peace-making, said the "most useful and simple way is for negotiations to take place directly between the concerned parties."

The Italian leader said he conveyed to Mr. Peres the contents of a message from Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), setting out the PLO's agreement with Jordan last week on a joint peace strategy.

But Mr. Craxi indicated that the agreement did not go far enough in clarifying the PLO's position. He said that after reading Mr. Arafat's letter "we are not in a position to exactly assess the contents of the agreement and the support it has among the Palestinians."

But the Italian premier said the agreement was a "move in the right direction."

Summing up his talks in Rome, Mr. Peres said his discussion with Mr. Craxi had opened the way to more coordination on Middle East issues.

Mr. Craxi said he had passed on information to Israel about his meetings with Arab leaders in his capacity as current president of the European Community (EC) and said he hoped this would help the prospects for peace.

"We have not thought of a role as mediators. We are friends of



Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres (left) and Italian Premier Bettino Craxi talk to each other during a joint press conference they held Wednesday at the end of a three-day visit by Mr. Peres to Italy (AP wirephoto)

Israel and if our word can be of use, we shall be glad of this," Mr. Craxi said.

The statement appeared to indicate Mr. Craxi has shelved his earlier hopes of an EC initiative on the Middle East. He said he had accepted an invitation from Mr. Peres to visit Israel soon.

"We have agreed to coordinate in the future so that peace will be furthered in the Middle East," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Craxi told the Associated Press Tuesday that he was hopeful some progress would result from the Jordan-PLO agreement. "I

think it is an essential element for a future Middle East settlement," he said. "Something is moving."

In Romania Mr. Peres is scheduled to hold a long meeting on Thursday with President Nicolae Ceausescu, who has often been a conduit for messages between Israel and the Arab nations. Romania is the only East bloc country with diplomatic relations with Israel.

Mr. Ceausescu sent a special envoy Tuesday to Cairo to confer with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Last week, Mr. Ceausescu met with Chairman Arafat.

On Tuesday, Mr. Peres held what were described as "cordial" talks with Pope John Paul II, although the two sides failed to narrow their differences over the Middle East conflict and Jerusalem.

The 40-minute meeting was the first meeting between an Israeli premier and the Pope since a stormy meeting between the late Golda Meir and Pope Paul VI in 1973.

Mr. Peres said he found the Pope "very knowledgeable. He was very pleasant. It was an extremely informal discussion."

## Israelis detain villagers

(Continued from page 1)

have tried to stop the Israelis demolishing homes.

U.N. observers have protested to Israeli officers on the spot about the manhandling of villagers, and the United Nations last week protested to Israel after a fist-fight between Israeli and French troops in Bourj Rahhal village.

In the latest confrontation, UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said an Israeli soldier opened fire on a French UNIFIL convoy on Monday.

He said a soldier at a checkpoint on Israel's new "front lines" in South Lebanon fired at the convoy to stop it crossing towards Beirut.

No one was hit, but French troops took up combat positions and threatened to fire back at the Israelis before being allowed through after a tense, 40-minute wait, Goksel said.

In Rome, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres told a news conference before leaving for Romania that Israel would go ahead with its three-stage withdrawal from Lebanon as planned despite guerrilla attacks and public pressure to speed it up.

"The government will continue discussions (on the next stage of the pullout) when I return, but the best thing is to complete the withdrawal as planned," said Mr. Peres, who is due back in Israel on Friday.

In Sidon, which the Israelis left last Saturday in the first stage of the pullout, a man suspected of

collaboration with Israel was killed Tuesday night.

He was the sixth suspected collaborator killed in the city since the Israelis left. Two more bodies were found on nearby roads Wednesday, but the reasons for the killings were not known.

## French officer shot in Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

among their recent guests. "They took three pistols and a field radio from the French, cut the telephone and told them to keep quiet and stay inside for 10 minutes," he said.

When the observers went outside, they found Maj. Rhodos' body on the door-step. He was the fourth member of the 80-man French force to be killed in or near Beirut this year.

Said Dawi, the PSP's representative on a multi-factional security committee, was briefed by French officers Wednesday at the scene.

He told Reuters he believed the attack was intended to discredit the militia. "We believe the PSP is the target of this attack rather than the French observers," he said.

He said the PSP would ask the observers to remain at the post adding: "We will assume full responsibility... severe punishment will be inflicted on whoever investigations establish was involved in this very bad operation."

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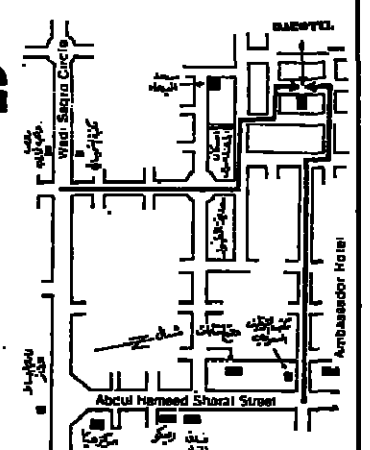
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## West German European bid hits political snag

**BONN (R)** — West Germany's bid to stage the 1988 European Soccer Championship hit a political snag Wednesday when the government stepped into the furor over the exclusion of West Berlin as one of the venues.

Government spokesman Peter Boenisch told a news conference the government welcomed Monday's decision by the European Football Union (UEFA) organising committee to recommend West Germany's application to host the tournament.

But he added it regretted West Berlin had been dropped from the venues proposed by the National Soccer Federation (DFB) and said the government expected the DFB to stand firm over the Berlin issue when the final decision is made next month.

UEFA's executive committee meets on March 15 in Lisbon to make the final choice and is expected to rubber-stamp the organising committee's recommendation, made in Bern.

West Germany had proposed that West Berlin stage the opening game but the UEFA committee made it first choice to stage the

championship five votes to one on condition the divided city was excluded.

The move was interpreted in West Germany as being made under pressure from Soviet bloc nations who strenuously oppose sporting events in West Berlin.

The Soviet bloc maintains that under the four-power post-war agreement West Berlin is not a part of West Germany.

DFB chief Hermann Neuburger said Tuesday that West Germany would not have been made first choice for the tournament if it had insisted on West Berlin as a venue.

Three of the five delegates who voted West Germany ahead of England, the Netherlands and the Nordic nations were from east bloc nations — the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

The decision caused a storm of protest in West Berlin where politicians are demanding the DFB

resist the UEFA move. Boenisch said West Berlin had been used in the 1974 World Cup — East Germany played a match there — and that the same principle should apply to the 1988 European Championship.

There was no immediate reaction from DFB officials who are in Portugal for Sunday's World Cup qualifying tie. But they face a further protest from Hamburg, one of three other cities dropped from the original championship application by UEFA.

The chairman of the Hamburg Football Association Horst Barrelet flew to Portugal Wednesday to persuade the DFB to try to get the city reinstated.

The ruling government party's spokesman for inter-German relations later called on the DFB to drop its plans to host the championship.

Eduard Lintner, of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU) grouping, said the DFB should be made aware of the damage it was doing to the future of German sport.

## Monaco Grand Prix aims for return to Formula One

**PARIS (R)** — The Monaco Grand Prix, glamour event of Formula One motor racing, appeared to be heading for a World Championship reprieve after the organisers moved towards reconciliation with the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

A FIA extraordinary general assembly voted here Tuesday to expel the Automobile Club of Monaco (ACM), but suspended the sentence and gave Monaco until March 2 to fulfil conditions to return to the fold.

Michel Boeri, ACM president, said it was time to make a new start and improve relations, soured for a year by a row over television rights and a flurry of legal cases.

The ACM were told they had to turn over the television rights of their Grand Prix to FIA, in line with other race organisers, drop existing legal proceedings, refrain from further court action and reimburse FIA's legal costs.

Boeri said they had already abandoned their contract with the American ABC network and the legal issues should prevent no further substantial problem.

Provided the conflict is solved by March 2, the way will be clear for the reinstatement of the Monaco Grand Prix, the principality's unique street chase, on the World

Championship calendar on May 19.

FIA's hand was strengthened last week when Paris courts ruled in their favour, once against the ACM and once against Ken Tyrrell's British Formula One team by upholding a suspension imposed by the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) last year.

Jean-Marie Balestre, deputy president of FIA and President of FISA, regarded this as a breakthrough against what he called "a sort of judicial terrorism against the old lady that is FIA". The federation was not "the big bad wolf," he added.

The legal victories have clearly persuaded FIA to shelve thoughts of switching their headquarters from Paris — their base since 1904. The issue scarcely surfaced at the assembly, although it had been originally planned for the agenda.

The ACM's readiness to hand over the television rights to FIA puts them in line with the other Grand Prix organisers. Bernie Ecclestone, leader of the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) which handles contracts for FIA, said he had organised a new deal with ABC for 1985 and 1986.

Balestre, also embroiled for months with the ACM in another wrangle over control of the Monte Carlo Rally, said it was not a question of settling scores.

He said he hoped the dispute could be solved and that the Monaco Grand Prix could be staged. But he added that Monaco had to observe the federation's regulations. "We must demand that everyone respect our rules," he said.

Boeri, who sat way behind the main body of delegates, left the room with his Monaco colleagues while the assembly decided by 54 votes to two in favour of the suspended exclusion.

But he said afterwards he hoped the lawyers would sort out the details to resolve the conflict as both sides had declared they wanted to do.

"Maybe we all consider now that this was a useless conflict. But if we live together for 50 years, it's possible conflicts can crop up," he said.

The ACM president even forced a smile from Balestre, saying the squabble had not been much fun for either of them and it was better not to be gloating at one another. "I prefer to see you smiling than accusing me of all sorts of manoeuvres," he said.

## Britain considers bidding for '92 Olympic Games

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain is considering making a late bid to stage the 1992 Olympic Games in London, officials said Wednesday.

British Olympic Association (BOA) secretary Dick Palmer said discussions had already taken place with the government's sports minister, Neil Macfarlane, and that the BOA would decide next month whether to submit a formal bid to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Switzerland.

"We had a meeting with the minister... and learned that the government at the highest level was interested in the possibility of putting in a bid," said Palmer.

"We were surprised to hear of the interest, but pleasantly so, and very encouraged to go ahead with feasibility studies to see how viable it would be."

Palmer said the findings would be presented to next month's full meeting of the British National Olympic Committee. It will then be decided, he said, whether to pursue an application to the IOC in Lausanne.

London's Guardian newspaper reported that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was personally supporting a bid to bring the games to Britain for the first time since 1948. The report was described as "purely speculative" by her press office at Downing Street.

The paper said Mrs. Thatcher was impressed by the commercial success of last year's Los Angeles Games, which are expected to reap a profit of some \$250 million.

A British bid for the 25th summer Olympics would be the seventh, joining those of Brisbane, Belgrade, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, New Delhi, Paris and Barcelona.

No city in the world has ever staged the games three times, but Palmer commented: "The credibility of the BOA and British sport in general is held in high esteem by the IOC. I think it (a British bid) would have a great deal of support in the committee."

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## Mexico fully prepared for World Cup, organisers say

**MEXICO CITY (R)** — Mexico, organising the World Soccer Cup finals for an unprecedented second time, will be fully prepared for the 24-team circus in time for kick-off on May 31 next year, said host committee president Guillermo Canedo.

He said work on all 12 stadiums was on schedule and that a dispute with box owners in Mexico City's Aztec Stadium — the venue for the opening game and the final — was being resolved.

Canedo said tickets, now on sale in Mexico, will be available abroad from late April. The draw for the finals is set for December 15 — so early buyers will "play a lottery", he said.

"It's inevitable there will be a ticket exchange market after the draw," he said, adding that the decision to let a bank handle ticket sales minimised risk for manipulations.

Canedo, who was in charge of preparations for the 1970 finals, is

sticking to the private enterprise formula used 15 years ago. He said it was a unique concept in World Cup soccer.

"The cup will not cost the state one peso," he said. "We have joined forces with private business and sponsors to make this the second World Cup that doesn't affect taxpayers."

World Cup holders Italy will play in Puebla in the first round while Mexico, automatic qualifiers as hosts, will open their campaign in the capital.

Canedo said the Mexicans, who beat the United States and Canada to take over as hosts after Colombia withdrew for economic reasons, found it easier to win the approval of the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) this time than in 1970.

"We managed to convince FIFA that Mexico can do a good job despite the economic crisis which affects us," he said. FIFA's doubts about the altitude — Mex-

ico City is at 2,300 metres (7,000 feet) — were dispelled in 1970, he said.

Canedo said that unlike the 1982 finals in Spain — where the host organisers were criticised for their involvement — the Mexicans will not handle the sale and booking of tickets and hotels.

The organisers gave reporters a booklet including a portrait of the Mexican World Cup mascot — Pique, a man in the shape of a green chili pepper with a wide hat and a handlebar moustache.

**Vilas, Kriek ousted in 1st round**

**LA QUINTA, California (R)** — Two unseeded 20-year-olds upset fifth-seeded Johan Kriek and 11th-seeded Guillermo Vilas in early rounds of a \$375,000 men's Grand Prix tennis tournament at La Quinta Tennis Club Tuesday.

Frenchman Tarik Benhabiles knocked out Kriek in a second round match in straight sets 6-1.

## Speed skating needs new look

**HAMAR, Norway (R)** — The speed skating fraternity, faced with declining interest among spectators, has decided that radical changes are needed if the century-old sport is to survive.

"We have to think about the future. Nothing has changed in this sport since 1893 and we need to stimulate some interest," Olaf Poulsen, president of the International Skating Union (ISU), told Reuters.

In an attempt to liven up the sport, the technical committee of the ISU this week recommended the introduction of a World Cup speed skating competition on the lines of that operating in ski jumping.

The sport's decline was demonstrated last weekend when only 10,000 people attended the men's World Championship here, a disappointing turnout as Norway, along with the Netherlands, is considered the heartland of speed skating.

Speed skating is less attractive than its derivative, figure skating, to the average sports fan for two

reasons — the cold and the apparent tedium of the proceedings.

Unlike the cosseted fans of indoor figure skating, speed skaters sit on snow-covered benches in sub-zero temperatures for four to five hours, warming themselves by frequent recourse to hip flasks.

The sport unfolding before them appears less than absorbing to an unqualified spectator as the races, whatever the distance, consist of two athletes skating around an ice-covered track occasionally changing lanes.

The athletic ability of the skaters is unquestioned — there are few sports in which the athlete races a sprint, then a grueling 5,000 metres race a few minutes later. But everyone agrees speed skating needs a shake-up.

One man who brought speed skating into the spotlight briefly was Eric Heiden, winner of five

Olympic golds in the 1980 Winter Games and World Champion from 1977 to 1979.

Watching last weekend's racing as a television commentator, the handsome young American pointed out the mistakes that deter spectators from speed skating.

"Look at the 10,000 metres. The race is organised so that the skaters who have a chance of winning race first. The rest of the race is purely academic so it is no wonder the stands are empty," he told Reuters.

The sprint races — 500, 1,000 and 1,500 metres — are generally more interesting than the 5,000 and 10,000 metres. But Heiden said spectators need to have a thorough knowledge of the sport to appreciate the drama fully.

Some skaters blame the ISU for the present state of speed skating — the union is also the governing body for figure skating which appears illogical to many.

"Looking after these two sports is like running American football and baseball just because they're both played on grass. Speed skating needs to be sold to the public," one skater commented as he looked around the half-empty stands here.

The committee's recommendations must still be approved by the full ISU committee in May but they have apparently found majority support.

The ISU hopes the speed skating competition, for both men and women, will help attract sponsorship.

### FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour T.V., central heating, telephone.

Two locations, Jab



## Disagreement may postpone Spain, Portugal entry to EC

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) president told Portugal Wednesday its application to join the bloc, like that of Spain, must wait until the 10 member states agree their negotiating position, diplomats said.

The president, currently Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, also formally advised Portuguese Foreign Minister Ernani Lopes the Community had nothing new to offer.

Mr. Lopes already had seen the bloc's foreign ministers at dinner Tuesday night as they tried vainly to break a deadlock over Spanish entry negotiations, which are linked to Lisbon's.

The ministers had argued for two days about the controversial Spanish entry terms and had no time to consider the less troublesome ones for Portugal.

This meant rising uncertainty about both countries as the two had been due to join at the same time a little over 10 months from now, the diplomats said.

After the two days of inconclusive ministerial talks ending late Tuesday night, a senior European Commission member told Reuters there appeared to be no real will to make progress.

"That is a very bad thing at this stage of the negotiations," said Mr. Frans Andriessen, commissioner with responsibility for agriculture and fisheries who prepared compromise proposals largely ignored by the ministers.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said he was very disillusioned after the ministers' discussions. "This cannot go on," he said.

Target date for Spanish and Portuguese accession is Jan. 1 next year. Diplomats said after the talks that few people now seriously believed that the target could be met.

Ministers would not comment publicly on the possibilities of delay, although some officials said entry could be postponed for up to a year.

A senior Spanish government

minister said in Madrid on Monday that delay might swing Spanish voters against NATO in a referendum next year, raising fears here about Madrid's continued membership of the Western alliance.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Tuesday referred to the likely political consequences for Western Europe of a breakdown when he urged the ministers to speed up the talks with Spain.

The ministers are to meet again next week, in the hope that intensive talks may help achieve a breakthrough before the Community's next summit at the end of March.

But Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran told Reuters he had no assurances from the ministers on prospects for success on Feb. 28.

Mr. Moran earlier read a statement to the ministers expressing Madrid's "profound concern" over the lack of progress in their talks, and strongly criticised entry terms which he said would impose intolerable strains on the Spanish economy.

Mr. Moran said Community membership was the "most desirable" for Spain, for Europe and for the West, and should not be undermined by short-term interests of some member-states.

"It would be a tragic irresponsibility that the accumulated reserve of Spanish public goodwill (for the Community) could be exhausted through excessive zeal in protecting marginal interests," he said.

Failure to end deadlock on enlargement also complicated the group's search for an end to its cash crisis.

West Germany, keen to keep up the pressure for early agreement, insisted that agreement to boost the Community's income, reached at last June's Fontainebleau summit, was meant to come into force only after the entry of Spain and Portugal.

The cash row has left the Community running on emergency financing, but budget commissioner Mr. Henning Christophersen Tuesday urged ministers to resolve their differences before the end of this month.

He said the commission was already facing difficulties in meeting farm subsidy, social, regional and food aid commitments.

EC agrees exceptional financing for food aid

Meanwhile, the ministers have agreed exceptional financing to ensure that the 10-nation group's food aid programme for poor countries be implemented without interruptions this year, diplomats said.

The implementation of the food aid programme came under serious threat when the European Parliament rejected the group's 1985 budget last year, forcing the Community onto an emergency scheme of monthly contributions insufficient to cover costs.

Diplomats said ministers agreed Tuesday to bring forward some of the monthly payments to finance the programme, estimated to be worth about \$270 million for 1985. The payments would be deducted once a budget had been agreed later this year.

The food aid programme involves shipments of 1.2 million tonnes of grains, 109,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 38,000 tonnes of concentrated butter and vegetable oils to 75 less developed countries and six non-governmental organisations.

It also includes deliveries of some 230,000 tonnes of other foodstuffs, such as sugar, fish, seed grains or dried fruits, the diplomats said.

Under the programme, beneficiaries may sell some of the delivered food to finance food self-sufficiency projects. The programme does not include emergency food aid for famine relief, which is granted in supplement on a case-to-case basis.

## New doubts emerge over Latin American debt risk

CARACAS (R) — Recent optimism that Latin America might be emerging from its debt crisis has given way to doubts highlighted by the resignation of Argentina's economy minister earlier this week according to bankers and diplomats.

Argentine economy minister Mr. Bernardo Grinspun resigned suddenly on Monday together with central bank president Mr. Enrique Garcia Vazquez after inflation soared to a record 770 per cent in the year to January, 1985.

The Alfonsín government appointed Harvard-educated Mr. Juan Sourrouille to lead fresh attempts to revive the economy. Last week it denied reports that Argentina was unable to meet four of seven key targets set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Those reports followed fast on news last week that the IMF had suspended a loan to Brazil because that country — the world's biggest foreign debtor — missed economic performance targets.

But the fund, anxious not to upset fragile international financial confidence, said talks with Brazil would be resumed.

Mexico — the country whose economic problems in 1982 signalled the debt crisis in the region — quickly came under scrutiny too.

Mexico quickly denied a report in the Wall Street Journal newspaper last week that the IMF had run out of patience with its inability to meet economic targets.

International bankers in Latin America, New York and London have all said that they do not expect the latest tensions in negotiations with the fund to affect severely Latin American debt restructuring efforts.

But bankers here cautioned that the inability of major Latin American debtors to meet IMF targets had raised questions over the

IMF's strategy to resolve the region's debt crisis.

It has overlooked Mexican inflation of around 60 per cent and until last week had been lenient with Brazil's money supply and inflation performance, largely because of both countries' excellent balance of payments and currency earnings.

Mexico has built up reserves of \$8 billion from nothing two years ago and Brazil has consistently topped trade goals, projecting a surplus this year of \$12 billion.

Some bankers said the IMF's stance on Brazil as a warning sign to debtor countries that the battle was not over and that economic austerity must be continued if the region's \$360 billion debt crisis was to be finally overcome.

"This is a strong signal to these countries that if they want IMF cash and support, they'll have to do a better job," one New York banker said.

Bankers said the IMF had little choice but to suspend loan disbursements to Brazil in view of its failure to meet money supply and inflation targets last year, making compliance with tentative IMF goals in 1985 impossible.

However, most bankers expected that once a new economic programme was agreed there should be little difficulty in tying up final details of Brazil's multi-year rescheduling plan.

Foreign bankers displayed more concern over Argentina, which has yet to receive a \$1.42 billion standby loan from the IMF and is still waiting to agree \$4.2 billion in fresh loans from a massive banking syndicate.

Monetary sources in Washington said the IMF was not due to disburse any of the standby loan until April. Under normal conditions payments would be spread over five quarters.

IMF officials are currently in Buenos Aires to discuss its economic targets, the sources added.

Economists in the Argentine capital last week told Reuters that the country might have to renegotiate its programme with the IMF after failing to meet its targets for the last quarter of 1984. This was denied in a statement by the economy ministry.

Reaffirmation of IMF austerity would be a blow for Latin America's debtors, who have called for adjustment programmes more compatible with their social and political pressures.

Meeting this month in Santo Domingo, the Cartagena group of 11 debtor nations called for an easing of austerity and for political dialogue with industrialised nations, saying there was a serious risk of political destabilisation in the region.

In Santo Domingo, the Cartagena group nevertheless restated its commitment to bilateral negotiations. It remained opposed to forming a debtors cartel and possibly jeopardising credit terms and new loans.

This moderate stance owed much to the success of countries like Brazil and Mexico rejecting calls for more drastic action made by other debtors who might now see their hand strengthened.

Venezuela, another major debtor in the region, is close to a deal in New York on a \$20.75 billion rescheduling, though some debts are still in dispute.

Elsewhere the picture is grim, with Peru failing as yet to line up an IMF programme and in arrears to banks, and Bolivia has not made any debt payments since March last year.

### LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed below their firm levels due to lack of follow-through having met some U.S. demand initially, dealers said. The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT was up 0.8 at 1276.7 having touched 1281.9.

ICI was 5p higher at \$67 after \$74 with its results due next week and among other leaders BTR dipped 2p to 642 after 647 and Thorn EM1 returned to 454 after 457.

Government bonds showed losses of up to 3/16 point easing with sterling which returned to 71.6 after 71.7 in trade weighted terms. Gold shares eased with the bullion price and weaker rand while North Americans were firm.

Trafalgar House dropped 12p to 356 following a five for one rights issue to raise £175 million which coincided with a £37.2 million bid for Haden Group which was immediately rejected by the company. Haden jumped 46p to 280.

Olivetti, which said it had acquired a 49.3 per cent stake in Acorn Computer, dropped 7p to 244 and Acorn remains suspended at 28p. A.B. Electronics, Acorn's largest single creditor added 20p to 420.

Cope Allman firmed 10p to 163 on further consideration of Tuesday's higher than expected interest results.

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

|                   |               |                   |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One sterling      | 1.0905/15     | U.S. dollars      |
| One U.S. dollar   | 1.3520/24     | Canadian dollars  |
|                   | 3.3222/32     | West German marks |
|                   | 3.7605/25     | Dutch guilders    |
|                   | 2.8140/55     | Swiss francs      |
|                   | 66.76/80      | Belgian francs    |
|                   | 101.600/50    | French francs     |
|                   | 2051.00/2.0   | Italian lire      |
|                   | 360.45/60     | Japanese yen      |
|                   | 9.3500/3600   | Swedish crowns    |
|                   | 9.4900/5000   | Norwegian crowns  |
|                   | 11.8700/8800  | Danish crowns     |
| One ounce of gold | 302.75/303.25 | U.S. dollars      |

### YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: During the daytime you can make real progress towards your long-range plans that have been maturing for some time, but you also can now come up with some very different additions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Analyze your monetary and business life and know how to trend the future so that you can have greater success.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you exchange views with an associate you can cement better relations for the future. Your intentions are good during the daytime.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get your work done in an efficient and standard manner and don't try to make any radical changes right now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Interesting new thoughts are surfacing through which you can get your ideas across to others.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) It is important that you are more generous with those at home and thus make life more harmonious there.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) An associate can help you solve problematical affairs more easily now, so contact early. Entertain at home this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into whatever activities will be helpful in getting rid of that feeling of emptiness that you have.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are apt to feel depressed today, so get out to some amusement that can lighten your spirits. Be open to suggestions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Talk a problem over with kin, and then you can solve it wisely, and stop fretting over it. Listen with an open mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Look to a good friend and an ally to help you make your routines work out more efficiently now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can see that bigwig who is usually too busy and get the advice you need very badly to accomplish your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) See that old friend you respect and gain good suggestions for improving your personal life. Not a good day to take a trip.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The very early morning finds some confusing or muddled thinking if one strays from the path of good judgment which is particularly evident at the same time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan how to go after what you desire, and avoid a higher-up who may be in a bad mood. You can then find happiness.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get in touch with experts, and then go after personal aims that mean much to you, so forget about going off on any tangents.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to turn new acquaintances into good friends today and don't be so concerned with money matters.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get into civic duties and add to present prestige and forget a partner who is acting strangely today.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle only work that is important today and then be off to make calls, visit with interesting people and enrich your way of life.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Early get at your regular work and make it more pleasant by using mechanisms that make it easier to handle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be with a partner at some new site where you can come to a far better understanding for the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get busy at tasks that will please kin, and make the home more comfortable instead of running off on tangents.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get together with congenials and forget that monetary problem that has you upset for awhile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your hunches are not very accurate in the morning so go along with the views of others, particularly where money is concerned.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't permit a private worry to knock you for a loop and go ahead and handle business and personal affairs intelligently.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you get the advice of a fine expert, you can handle financial affairs very effectively now. Get ahead very fast.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will early comprehend practical affairs as they truly are and particularly where the modern is concerned, so don't try to confine your progeny to the antiquated. One who will want to pioneer in new activities and inventions, and become very successful thereby.

## Egypt plans to double bread price

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government will double the price of a loaf of bread to help curb heavy basic commodity subsidies, Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said Tuesday.

Subsidies have been a thorny issue since 1977, when rioting broke out after they were removed from bread and other staples. They were quickly put back.

Mr. Ali, quoted by Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA), told members of the ruling National Democratic Party the bread price rise would apply to all but poor areas of the country, where the cost would remain unchanged.

Egypt, with a population of 48 million and increasing at a rate of a million every 10 months, imports 70 per cent of its annual wheat and wheat-flour needs.

## Talks begin to settle indefinite Bombay strike

BOMBAY (R) — Talks started Wednesday to end an indefinite strike by more than 5,000 clerical workers which has hit cargo handling at Bombay, India's busiest port, and Bombay international airport.

Bombay Port Trust Chairman K.K. Uppal told Reuters: "The labour ministry has started talks between union and management to settle a pay dispute which triggered the strike."

Another port official said the strike by the clerks, who clear import and export cargo papers, stopped the unloading of three ships carrying cement and fertiliser.

"But unloading of other ships cleared before the strike is continuing," he said.

Airport officials said large consignments for exports had been held up because clearance papers were not available.

Mr. S.R. Kulkarni, president of the All-India Port and Dock Workers Federation, said the full impact of the strike would be felt after a few days.

He said workers picketing dock gates, the airport and customs house succeeded in stopping trucks using the harbour and airport.

Passenger baggage, defence materials and life-saving drugs were exempt from the strike by the clerks, who handle paperwork for 430 clearing and forwarding agents in Bombay, India's commercial capital.

A spokesman for the Bombay Custom House Agents' Association employing the workers described the union's pay demand as absurd.

### Peanuts



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



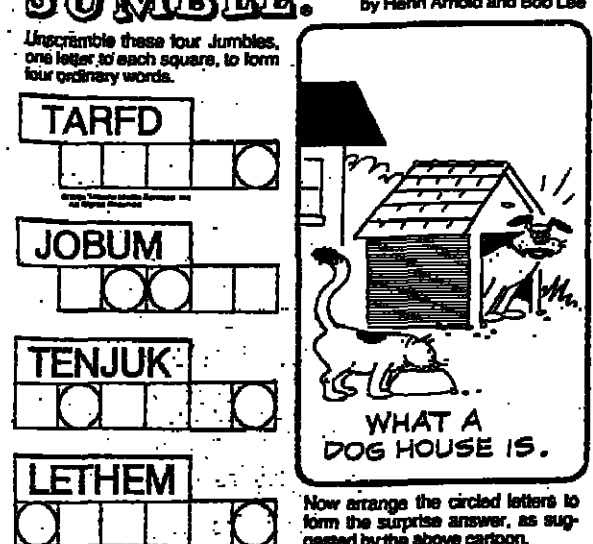
### Andy Capp



### THE BETTER HALF.



### JUMBLE.



Print answer here: A (Answers tomorrow)  
Yesterday's Jumble: FIFTY TAKEN GAINED ROBBER  
Answer: What that deafening noise was a form of — "EARTHQUAKE"



